Men shutout Dinos

page eighteen

Perils of crossing the Bering Sea

page five

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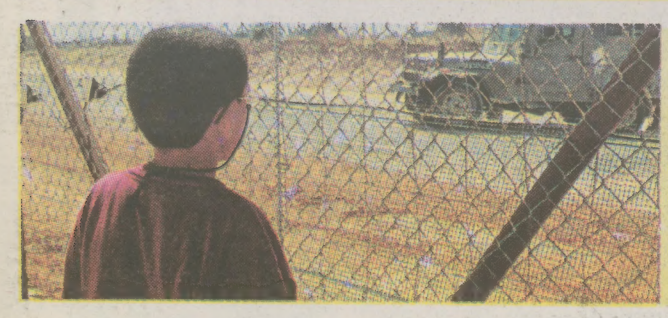
MARTLET

Thursday, October 7, 2004 | The University of Victoria's Independent Newspaper | www.martlet.ca | Volume 57, Issue 9

Autumnal

DAN HARDER PHOTOS



Travelling to Israel and Palestine in search of answers

pages ten and eleven

Pot trial up in smoke

by Adrian Letourneau

Every Wednesday at 4:20 p.m., dozens of UVic students gather near the fountain to show support for sick people who struggle to treat their conditions with medical marijuana.

While nearly all the students are healthy, UVic's Hempology 101 club attracts attention by supporting the use of illegal drugs. During meetings, members of the Cannabis Buyer's Club provide updates on current events involving medicinal marijuana while dozens of students pass joints around a circle.

The activist responsible for Hempology 101, one of the largest student clubs at UVic, is Leon 'Ted' Smith, but Smith has not set foot on the campus since Nov. 8, 2000. Smith was charged with possession and trafficking, with evidence supplied by an undercover officer who had pocketed one of the joints passed out during a Hempology 101 meeting. Since then, Smith has been banned from campus. "They took my microphone and speaker," he said.

Four years have passed, and a trial was set for last week to determine the outcome of these charges. Hoping for an acquittal, Smith's victory would be celebrated by nothing short of his triumphant march back onto university soil.

Instead, the trial has been delayed again until January 2005. Two different trials were scheduled to take place at the same time with the same judge. The final decision was to go forward with an alternate case that had been waylaid for two years, as opposed to Smith's own trial, which had nearly hit its four-year anniversary.

Smith remains positive, hoping that the delay of one his most difficult trials will provide him better grounds to argue what he considers his constitutional rights. Smith will be arguing Section 2 dealing with freedom of expression, opinion, peaceful assembly and association, claiming to have been singled out from the crowd because of his personal views. "If they were going to charge me with trafficking, then everyone should have been arrested," he said.

Smith will also be arguing Section 7, which deals with liberty and security, suggesting that the passing of joints happened between consenting adults.

Smith is the founder of the Vancouver Island's Cannabis Buyer's Club, a non-profit organization that provides medicinal marijuana to people with chronic illnesses. The organization runs out of Ted's Books on Johnson Street, where proof of illness and photo I.D. enable the purchase of medicinal marijuana and the use of a smoking room.

Police raided Smith's store in 2002 up to six different times, resulting in two different charges involving trafficking and possession. Two of the seizures had been in response to robberies at the store. Two others had been without warrants.

Judge Loretta F. Chaperon stayed these charges on Sept. 7 on the grounds that the Cannabis Buyer's Club was doing the job the government was not doing, namely providing a reliable supply of marijuana to those that need it. The stay is expected to stick, making the ruling a victory for Smith on its own.

Although there have been no additional arrests related to Hempology 101 since Smith's arrest, both Campus Security and Saanich police are aware of its activities.

In an interview last year, Chris Horsley, media relations officer for the Saanich police, said, "The police department is still very concerned with drug use on campus. Just because the police aren't showing up every week doesn't mean we are agreeing to what is happening."

"We made our point by charging him," said Hunter McDonald, former director of Campus Security Services in November 2003. According to McDonald, Campus Security Services was waiting until the judicial system decides on Smith's case before looking at future marijuana enforcement strategies.

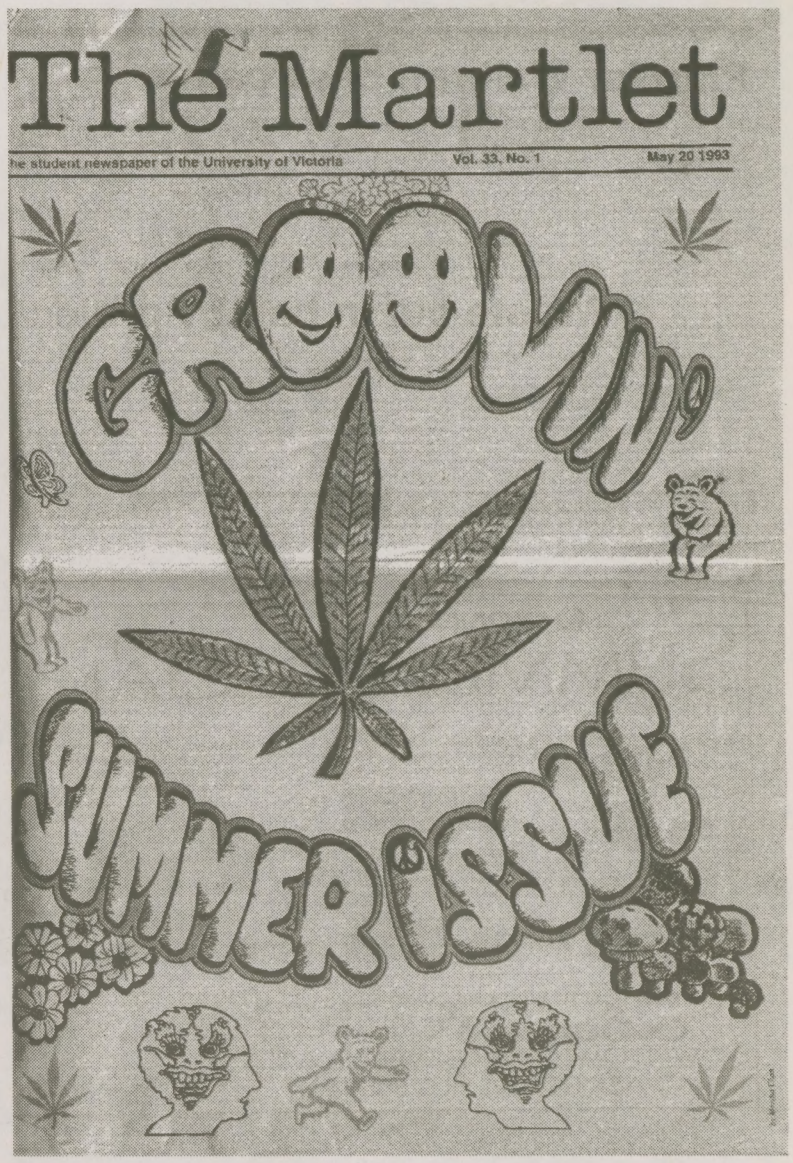
This leaves only three charges with two separate trials to go. Despite the delays and legal pitfalls, Hempology 101 has continued to increase in size. "People used to be cautious about coming to meetings, but at one point last year we were getting 120 people to our meetings, right in the middle of campus," said Smith in March 2004.

If that wasn't evidence enough of a growing interest in the legalization of marijuana, Smith speaks every Wednesday at 7 p.m. on the steps of the courthouse about his rights to educate the public about medical marijuana and his own recent trials. These meetings have yet to be broken up by the Victoria police.

Smith's next trial will involve a charge made in November 2000—a mere seven days after his arrest on campus—in front of the Greater Victoria Public Library where he was found distributing pot cookies for a 4:20 meeting.

The trial is scheduled for Nov. 8. Smith said he has every intention of fighting for the long haul, right up to the Supreme Court itself, even if it takes another 10 years.

"The war on drugs is the epitome of a much larger, older struggle than most people realize. It is nothing less than a war on peace, a war on people," said Smith in his book, Hempology 101.



A 1993 Martlet cover proves marijuana has been a relevant issue on campus for over a decade.

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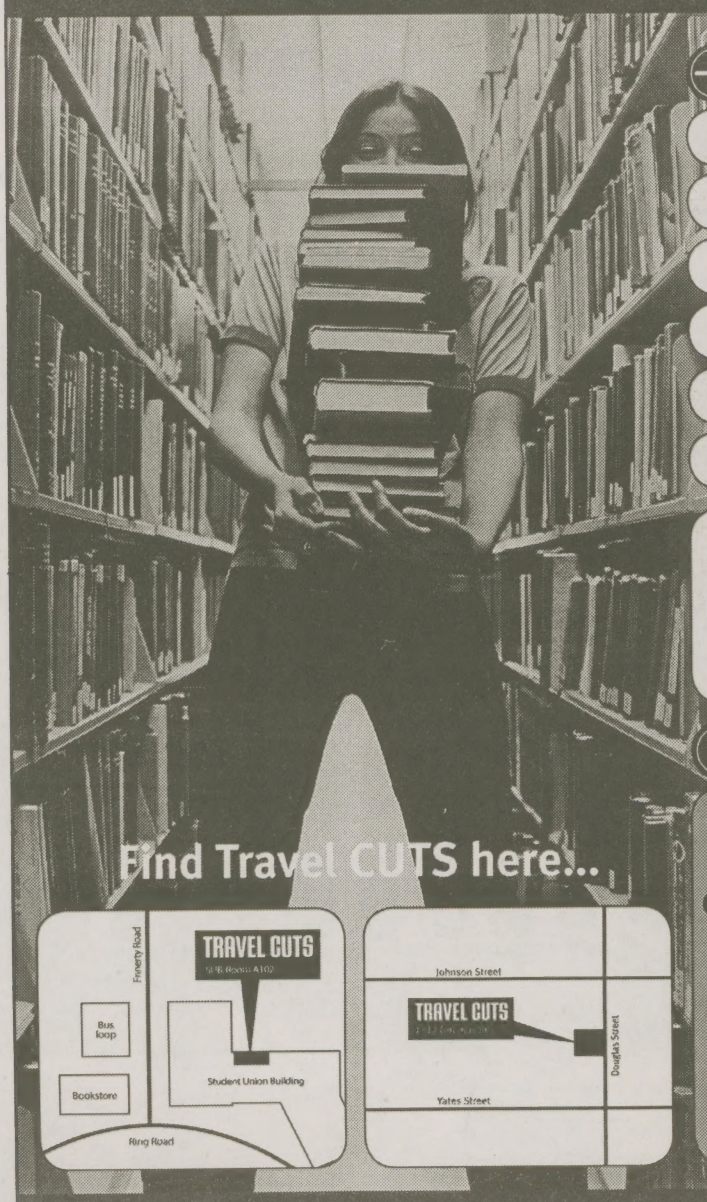

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American war deserter escapes Bush

Soldier condemns U.S. war in Iraq as an 'act of aggression having no defensive basis'

by Mike Berry

A 19-year-old American war deserter who is applying for refugee status in Canada visited campus last week to spread news of an anti-war movement south of the border.

In the summer of 2002, the United States military approached Brandon Hughey and coaxed him with a signing bonus of $5,000 and the prospect of a free education. At just 17, believing this was the only way he could receive a higher education, he signed up. But because he was too young to sign on his own accord, Hughey's father made the deciding signature.

"I had it in the back of my mind that 'Yeah, I'm signing a military contract, so I could be going to war,'" he said. "But I had this vision of being the good guy and fighting to defend my country."

Although he joined the military in August 2002, he didn't leave for basic training until July 2003 and remained in this secluded environment until November.

"At first when [Bush] was in the process of launching [the war] I thought it might be a good idea," he said. "He was saying [Iraq] had this massive arsenal of weapons of mass destruction and they could end up in our cities."

As the months wore on, seeing the United States government's failure to find a single warhead or prove Iraq had ties to Al-Qaeda, Hughey concluded the Bush administration had lied. The war with Iraq, according to Hughey, was an act of aggression, having no defensive basis and "completely against what [he] thought [he] would be doing."

"I didn't feel willing to go over and give the ultimate sacrifice or kill someone for causes they can't justify," he said.

Before seeking refugee status, Hughey tried to get discharged from the military. His superiors, he said, told him that because he had signed up, regardless of what he thought, there was no way they were going to let him out. He was going to do what they said whether he agreed with it or not.

Hughey said dishonourable discharges carry a stigma and result in second-class citizenship in the United States, making it difficult to land good jobs or get loans for school.

Without ever receiving his $5,000 signing bonus, Hughey decided to leave. He made the long drive from Texas to Indianapolis overnight to meet with a peace activist who was in touch with the Quaker community. They knew someone in St. Catharines, Ont., willing to take him in.

He was nervous about his journey to Canada, he said, because he had never left the United States before and didn't know what to expect.

"It went easier than I thought," said Hughey. "They just asked for ID and asked what we are going to do for the day. So I just told them I was going to see a basketball game."

Hughey is the second of four war deserters currently seeking refugee status in Canada, but there is long list of others refusing to fight in the United States, especially those who have returned from Iraq on leave and are refusing to head back.

"I guess some people just assume that once U.S. soldiers sign up, they just forfeit their conscience, but that's not always the case," he said.

He said volunteers are subjected to the same obligations as draftees and made reference to the Nuremberg principles established after the Second World War.

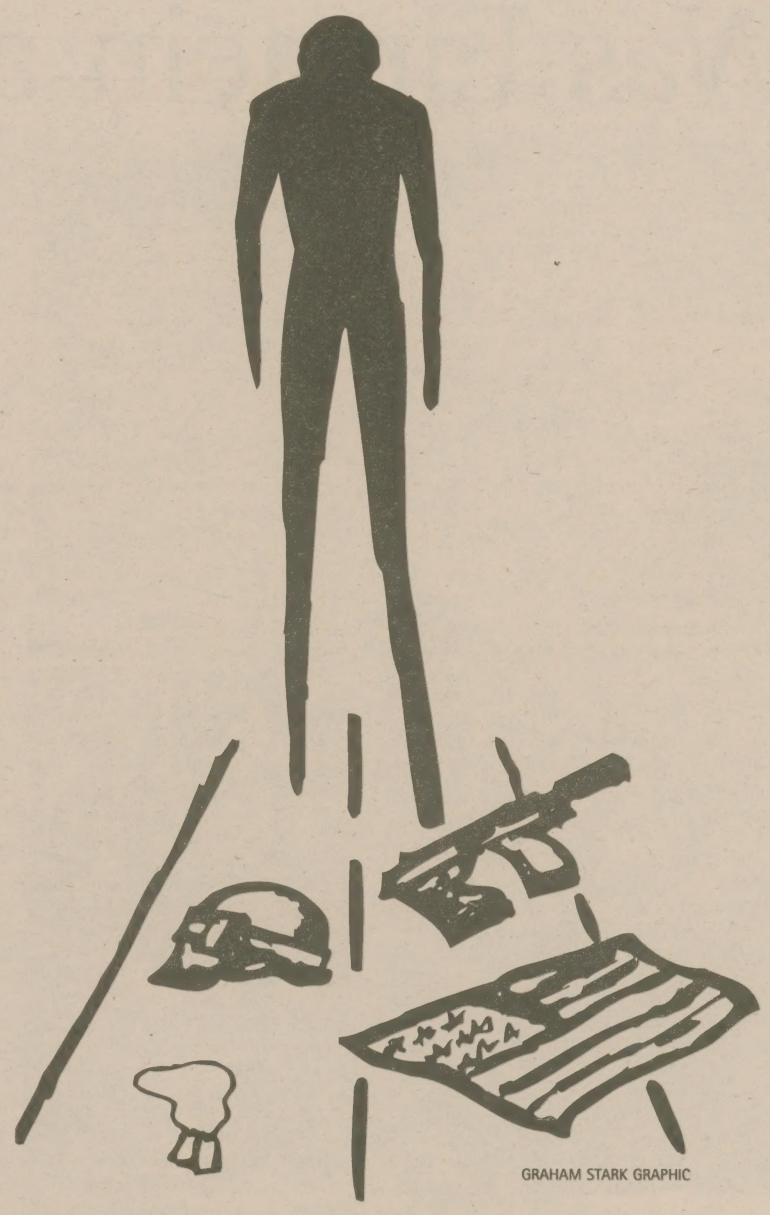
According to Hughey, the Nuremberg principles say you have to refuse illegal and immoral orders, even if they go against the domestic law of your homeland.

"So just because you volunteered," he said, "when you are given an order you still have to decide for yourself whether it's moral or not."

This is just one of the points Hughey will bring up at his refugee hearing, scheduled for Nov. 19. The other, he said, is a UN resolution stating that if a person faces persecution for refusing to fight in a war that has been condemned by the international community, he has a basis for a refugee claim. Kofi Annan, secretary-general of the United Nations, recently declared the Iraq war illegal.

Hughey made reference to Camilo Mejia, an American soldier who is refusing to return to Iraq from leave because his platoon was shooting innocent civilians. Mejia now sits in a prison cell. Refusing to fight faces minimum sentences of up to five years in prison, said Hughey, and the death penalty could technically still be applied as well.

"Canada is a nation that abides by UN law," Hughey said. "Hopefully that will be something that will help us out with the case."



GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

Between 1965 and 1973, Canada accepted more than 50,000 draft dodgers from the Vietnam War. Pierre Trudeau, prime minister at the time, said, "Canada should be a refuge from militarism." According to Hughey, Vietnam draftees got refugee status as soon as they crossed the border.

But it won't be as easy for him, as Canada has a history of refusing refugee status to Americans in recent years.

"On paper it doesn't look like I have a chance," said Hughey. "But if you look at those cases, they are nothing like the case I am making. There has never been a case like this. This is unprecedented."

If he does become a refugee, he said he would be quite content living in Canada.

"I guess you could say that my myth has been shattered of what used to be the U.S.," he said. "So I have no desire to return to that country, and I'll be happy to call Canada my home."

"I would fight to defend my home and family," he said. "If I was granted status here [in Canada] then yeah, I would defend it."

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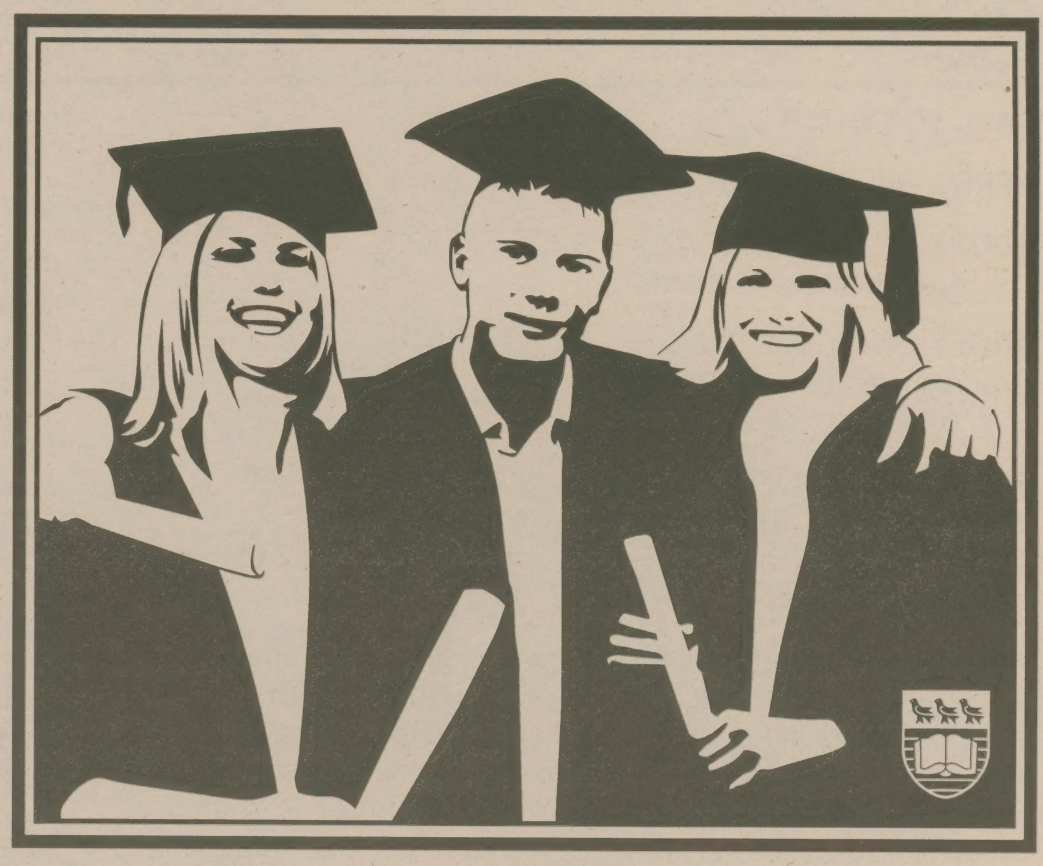

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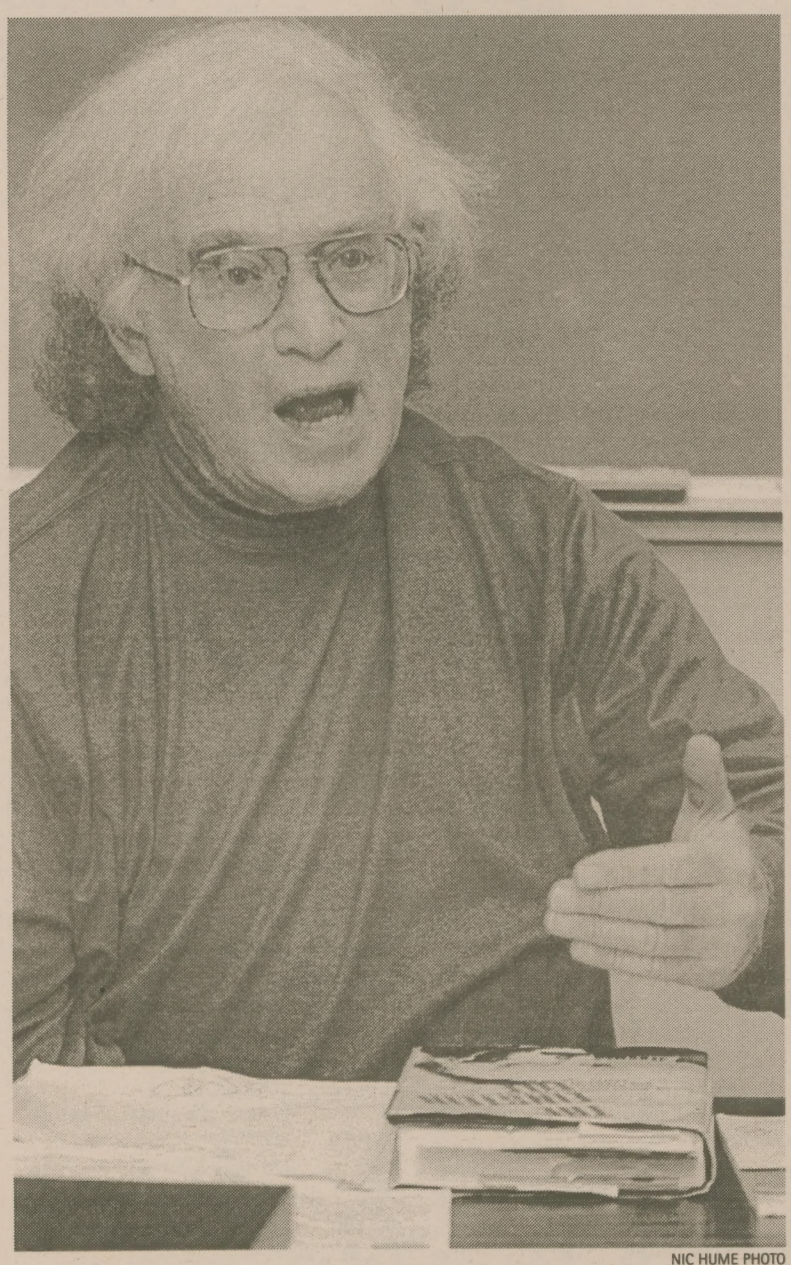
Was Einstein a communist?



NIC HUME PHOTO

Einstein look-alike and retired Regina psychology professor Dr. Bill Livant wonders if Einstein was a red sympathizer.

He is accused of taking 'deviant social positions' by a retired Regina professor

by Tim Boultbee

Albert Einstein is known to many as the scientist who came up with the famous equation $E=mc^2$. But Dr. Bill Livant, a retired professor of psychology at the University of Regina, says there was much more to the person named "Man of the Century" by *Time* magazine.

Livant, who now lives in Victoria, was at UVic Sept. 30 to give a talk called "Albert Einstein: Socialist," which gave accounts of Einstein's political activism. Livant pointed out, for example, that Einstein's association with African-Americans such as Paul Robeson and W. E. B. Du Bois drew the attention of J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI, who opened the scientist's mail, tapped his phone and tried to associate him with Soviet spies in order to take back his American citizenship.

Over a period spanning more than 20 years, the FBI collected a file of almost 2,000 pages on the professor-activist. This information was finally made available to author Fred Jerome after three years of filing under the Freedom of Information Act and resulted in the book *The Einstein File*. According to Livant, Jerome found that the FBI was not concerned about Einstein's pacifism or ideas on world government, but zeroed in on his ties with Robeson and any connections Einstein may have had with communist organizations.

Einstein came to America in 1933, the same year Hitler established his dictatorship. In 1936, a Popular Front government was elected in Spain. The Spanish government came to power with the promise of reform as one of its major initiatives. However, to Spain's conservative forces, such as the Catholic church, wealthy landowners and the army, the idea of land reform was a threat, and they feared more reforms were going to come.

On July 18, 1936, a series of co-ordinated attacks began the Spanish Civil War. Many saw it as a global conflict between fascism and democracy. Hitler, Mussolini and Portugal's Salazar allied with the Nationalist forces of Spanish generals. The Loyalists, who supported the Popular government, were supported by international brigades made up of individuals from Britain, Canada, the U.S. and others who saw fascism as an evil force that had to be defeated.

One brigade that fought the fascists was the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, of which over 80 per cent of the volunteers were African-Americans. Einstein not only wrote on behalf of the legitimacy and necessity to support the Loyalists, he was also a member of a committee that supported the Lincoln Brigade. "Einstein," said Livant, "was anti-fascist, anti-racist and anti-capitalist."

"Many people came back from World War II thinking there was going to be a better life," said Livant, "but there was lynching of blacks at the time."

In 1946, Paul Robeson formed the American Crusade to End Lynching and invited Einstein to co-chair the organization. Einstein agreed.

In that same year, Einstein addressed students at Lincoln University where he discussed the heavy debt that the U.S. had regarding its treatment of black people. Normally Einstein shied from public university engagements, but he was aggrieved over the racism in the U.S. and felt he had to take a stand and speak against it.

In May 1949, Einstein published an article titled "Why Socialism?" in the first edition of the *Monthly Review* magazine. In his article, he wrote about "the relationship of the individual to society."

"The individual," Einstein wrote, "is able to think, feel, strive and work by himself; but he depends so much on society . . . it is 'society' which provides man with food, clothing, a home, the tools of work . . . " Yet, Einstein continued, the individual does not see the dependence on society as positive, but as a threat. This threat, he continued, is due to the fact that capitalism is based upon profit and competition, both of which lead to "the crippling of the social consciousness of individuals" who don't own the means of production and are always fearful of losing their jobs.

Einstein "took deviant social positions," Livant explained, in an era deeply divided by political controversy. Because Einstein's views clashed with those of authority figures such as Hoover, he could not get the security clearance needed to work on developing the atomic bomb.

Einstein's views are still controversial. In citing *Time* magazine's "Man of the Century" honour, Livant pointed out that the accompanying articles failed to mention anything about Einstein's socialist leanings.

University of Victoria Students' Society / Canadian Federation of Students Local 44

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

UVSS THURSDAY OCTOBER 21, 2004 - 1:00pm, CINECENTA

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• AGENDA •

CFS FCE

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. APPROVAL OF CHAIR
3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
   a. Agenda of 04/10/21 AGM
4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES
   a. Minutes of 03/10/16 AGM
   b. Minutes of 04/02/05 SAGM
5. SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS
   Motion 04/10/21:01
   BIRT Board of Directors Policy, Conflict of Interest 2d be repealed and replaced with:

   If Directors apply for a Workstudy position within the operations of the Society, they shall resign from the Board or their resignation shall be considered to have been delivered on the closing date of applications. Exempt are those Workstudy positions within the operations of the Vancouver Island Public Research Group (VIPIRG), the Radio Society (CFUV-FM), the Martlet, the Women's Centre, the Native Students' Union, the Pride Collective, the Society for Students' with a Disability, and the Students' of Colour Collective.
6. REPORTS
   a. Board of Directors Report
      i. Chairperson Report
      ii. Director of Finance Report
      iii. Director of Services Report
      iv. Director of Academics Report
      v. Director at Large and Advocacy Representative Reports

Motion to adopt the report of the Board of Directors
BIRT the October 2004 report of the Board of Directors be adopted as presented.

7. FINANCIAL MOTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION
   Motion to adopt the budget
   BIRT the 2004/2005 Budget of the University of Victoria Students' Society - Local 44 of the Canadian Federation of Students be adopted as presented.

   Motion to adopt the audited financial statements
   BIRT the 2003/2004 audited financial statements be adopted as presented.

   Motion to re-appoint the auditors
   BIRT the firm of Blain Allen Inc. be appointed as the official auditors of the University of Victoria Students' Society - Local 44 of the Canadian Federation of Students for the fiscal year of 2004/2005.
8. QUESTION PERIOD *(limit 30 minutes)*
9. OTHER BUSINESS
10. NOTICE OF MOTION
11. ANNOUNCEMENTS
12. ADJOURNMENT

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PROVIDED PHOTO

Colin Angus (left) and Tim Harvey celebrate reaching Russia after an 800-kilometre row across the Bering Sea.

Perils of crossing the Bering Sea

by Sean Patrick Sullivan

From a tent along the barren coast of Siberia, Tim Harvey makes a patchy phone call to the Martlet office.

"I'm a UVic graduate and a former Martlet volunteer, and I'm in Siberia right now," he said, his voice muffled by the wind. "Do you want to talk to me?"

Harvey, along with Canadian adventurer Colin Angus, is midway through a human-powered expedition from Vancouver to Moscow. The trip, which will take about one year, is intended to raise the profile of zero-emission transportation.

The pair left Vancouver in June and cycled through the Yukon to Alaska. In Fairbanks they picked up their specially modified rowboat and travelled 1600 kilometres down the Tanana and Yukon rivers into the North Bering Sea.

That's when the going got tricky.

The direct crossing to Siberia was supposed to be 400 km, but storms and unpredictable weather lengthened the trip to 800 km.

"There were 15-foot waves," exclaimed Harvey, his words crackling with static over the satellite phone. "One time we were changing shifts at the oars, and the latch to the cabin of the boat locked. Locked out at night during a terrible storm, we had to break back into the boat."

"From then on, we were just terrified that if the boat capsized, we'd just go down," he said. After a week at sea without sighting land, Harvey and Angus were blown back to a different part of Alaska.

They set out again, and made it to Providenia, Siberia, Asia's most northeastern port of call. Located just below the Bering Strait, it was the point of entry closest to Alaska—any further north and the pair would have been turned away by the Russians.

Once they arrived in Siberia, Harvey and Angus were so happy to be alive and out of the rowboat that they ditched both the boat and their plans to journey further by sea. They met up with Siberian adventurer Yulya Kudryavtseva—whose knowledge of the region's culture and language Harvey calls "indispensable"—and decided to hike overland.

They tore up wooden planks to make frames for external backpacks, used the stuffing from their lifejackets for padding and started hiking into the hills.

Currently 300 km into an 850 km hike along the Sea of Anadyr, Harvey said they have reached "a real milestone." To celebrate, they took a day off.

The hardest part—crossing the Bering Sea—may be over, but the three still have over 11,000 km to go before they reach Moscow.

Siberia's snowy season is approaching, and the days are getting colder. The group is heading for the coldest part of the northern hemisphere, where the temperature once dropped to a blistering -73 C.

Luckily, they've got a corporate sponsor and some hi-tech clothing. But surviving in that kind of temperature demands more than just expensive clothes.

"There's a lot of strategy involved in layering clothing," explained Harvey. "You can't let the body sweat. You've got to stay warm, but if the temperature drops and you have sweat on your body, you can easily die of hypothermia."

Harvey is travelling with freeze-dried foods, though the group tries to eat fatty meals in the villages through which they pass. Vegetarians may not like to hear it, he joked, but they relish opportunities to sit down to a big plate of whale or caribou.

And they're going to need it. Once they reach the city of Anadyr, they have over 1000 km of road-less wilderness to traverse by ski, followed by approximately 9000 km of cycling with bicycles designed for traction on snow and ice.

The group plans to reach Moscow in May.

For now, Harvey, Angus and Kudryavtseva are enjoying the rugged coastline—despite the deathly cold weather—and see huge grizzly bears, arctic fox and whales on a daily basis.

"There's an amazing abundance of wildlife here," said Harvey. "It blows our minds that it's an area yet to be hit by tourism. This is paradise for adventure tourists."

The trip is being chronicled on the group's website, www.vancouvertomoscow.com.

Controversial film festival draws criticism

by Robert Kotyk, CUP Central Bureau Chief

WINNIPEG (CUP) — A controversial film festival premiered in Winnipeg Sept. 24, angering members of the local Jewish community who say the film screenings were scheduled on days when they would be unable to attend.

The Canada Palestine Film Festival kicked off at a Winnipeg theatre, featuring several documentary and fictional films depicting life in the Middle East.

Festival organizers say they failed to notice the first day of the festival also marked the first day of Yom Kippur, the most sacred holiday of the year for Jews. One group has come forward to protest the festival, saying the films are propaganda and could lead to violence against Winnipeg's Jewish community.

B'nai Brith, an organization whose mandate is to combat racism against Jews, has heavily criticized the festival throughout the week leading up to the screenings.

"Films like this become part of the building block of propaganda," said David Matas, a representative for B'nai Brith. "We see violence where people express the sort of motivation that these films propagate, so they certainly don't help."

Matas pointed to the violence against Jews in Canada over recent years, such as the fire-bombing of a Jewish school in Montréal last April, as being related to the messages conveyed in the festival's films.

He also pointed out that practicing Jews will also not be able to attend the screenings, and will therefore not be able to engage in any debate about their content.

"The people who are most likely to know about the issue and would be best able to attend and comment are not going to be there," he said. "It's a date when they can't be there."

Festival organizers have apologized for the scheduling, saying their real intent was to show the films as close as possible to the anniversary of the second Intifada, a Palestinian uprising, which began in 2000.

Krishna Lalbiharie, one of the festival planners, said the scheduling was nothing more than a gaffe on the part of organizers.

"We severely apologize for inadvertently booking this festival in congruence with Yom Kippur," he said. "It certainly wasn't our intention to prevent members of the Jewish faith from witnessing or seeing these films or from criticizing the content."

In answer to the controversy raised by the dates, the Canada-Palestine Support Network, the advocacy group behind the festival, has scheduled a separate screening of two of the films later in the week at a Winnipeg bookstore. The films will be followed by a discussion.

Jason Bernstein, a member of the University of Manitoba's Jewish Students' Association, said the fact remains that the festival's scheduling made it impossible for many Jews to see the most of the films.

"I think it's very good that (festival organizers) are showing another side of it," he said. "I'm interested to go and see some stuff, see what they say about it and see if they can back up their facts, but unfortunately I can't because they planned the festival over Yom Kippur."

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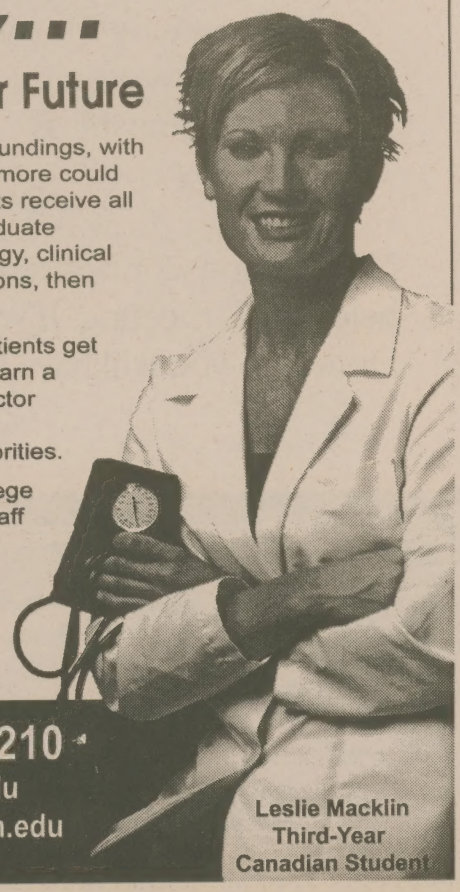

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NIC HUME PHOTO

Students line up early in the morning to snag an appointment at the advising centre for humanities, science and social sciences.

Academic Advising gets failing grade

by Megan Stewart

Deemed by some as an all round frustrating and student-unfriendly service, the advising centre for humanities, science and social sciences maintains that their procedure serves students in the best possible way.

But in the hopes of snagging a same-day appointment on the centre's policy of first-come, first-served basis, students have been lining up outside the Advising offices in the University Centre as early as 6 a.m. September is an especially busy month as students rush to organize course loads for the following semesters.

The doors open at 8:30 a.m. and front-desk administrators begin taking names and filling available appointment slots for later in the day. A sign on the desk reads that most appointments are gone in less than two hours.

"We know that students show up outside the building early in the morning—some come at 6 a.m.—but we have found that what we are doing now provides the best service for students," said Melissa Ozard, secretary to the director. "We are doing all we can with the resources we have."

Ozard explained that the centre has tried scheduling same-day appointments by telephone but that students suffered in the end. Advisors and support staff were spending most of their time on the phone taking messages and arranging appointments instead of helping students as they came to the office in person. And too many students, Ozard said, skipped their scheduled meetings.

Only when they are required to make the extra effort to book 20 minutes with an advisor, said Ozard, do students consistently follow through with their commitments.

Rebecca Michaluk was delayed entrance into UVic not because she had to wait in line to see an advisor, but because of a paper shuffle.

When she applied in 2002, the university didn't receive Michaluk's transcripts from another college, and while they could not accept her as a student, Academic Advising failed to tell her why.

"The fact is, when I applied the next year I realized the school had never received that document. They didn't make any effort to help me, and I had to wait a year to take classes."

Despite a pre-arranged phone interview with the dean of advising, Dr. Michael Edgel, this reporter was stood up and was unable to reach the head of the department for comment.

"It feels like it's impossible to see an advisor," said Michaluk.

"It's an issue. Navigating your way through the UVic Advising Centre is a course unto itself and that's scary because this is our lives."

Martlet AGM 4 p.m. Oct. 15

On **October 15 at 4 p.m.**, the Martlet will be holding its Annual General Meeting. **All staff members must attend** this meeting as we'll be discussing important issues vital to the future of the paper.

Items on the agenda:

- Electing new Board of Directors
- Amendments to constitution and bylaws
- Renaming the office computers
- Ad boycott ratification
- Other business

Nominations for positions on the Board of Directors will be held at this meeting. If you want to serve on the Board of Directors, you will have to attend this meeting.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Women appointed to top court

For the first time in Canadian history, women fill four of the nine seats in the Supreme Court of Canada. Top judges Justice Rosalie Abella and Justice Louise Charron were appointed to the court in an emotional ceremony Oct. 4.

"No other comparable court in the world, to my knowledge, has come so far in giving women a voice in its deliberations," said Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin.

Liberal Justice Minister Irwin Cotler said gender equity is making the Canadian court "the most representative of any court in the world."

"Justices Abella and Charron bring a wealth of expertise and experience in both pubic and private law—and exemplary personal qualities—to the Supreme Court," he said.

—M.S.

Nose nabs Nobel

The Nobel Prize has been awarded to two American scientists who have worked out the basic biology behind a mammal's sense of smell.

Richard Axel of Columbia University and Linda Buck of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Centre in Seattle shared the $1.7 million award for learning the mysterious mechanics responsible for the body's olfactory gland.

Experimenting with odour-detecting cells inside the noses of mice and eventually testing human nasal cells, Axel and Buck learned that 900, or five per cent, of the genes in mammals were dedicated to smell—a high percentage reflecting their importance.

Over half the human genes used for smell have evolved to near uselessness, they discovered.

—M.S.

Second televised American presidential debate airs this week

U.S. President George W. Bush and Democratic nominee John Kerry sound off Friday (Oct. 8) in the second of three televised debates.

Political and social analysts have tussled with the outcome of the first debate, which had the candidates battling over foreign policy and homeland security. Kerry critics argued his stylish ways lack substance, while Bush opponents critique the president's verbal fumbles.

After the first debate, held Sept. 30 in Miami, a *Newsweek* poll found that 47 per cent of viewers supported Kerry while 45 supported Bush. Five weeks ago during the Republican convention, Bush enjoyed an 11-point lead in the polls.

—M.S.

Becoming best buddies

by Michelle Martin

When scanning the list of the 70-plus University of Victoria Students' Society clubs, it becomes apparent just how much interest UVic students take in the world around them. Many clubs—like the Interfaith Social Justice club, Journalists for Human Rights and Students Against War—focus on advocating rights and promoting progress throughout the world.

However, one non-profit group is focused on social progress right here in Victoria. Best Buddies develops meaningful and lasting relationships with a local focus by linking UVic students to adults with disabilities.

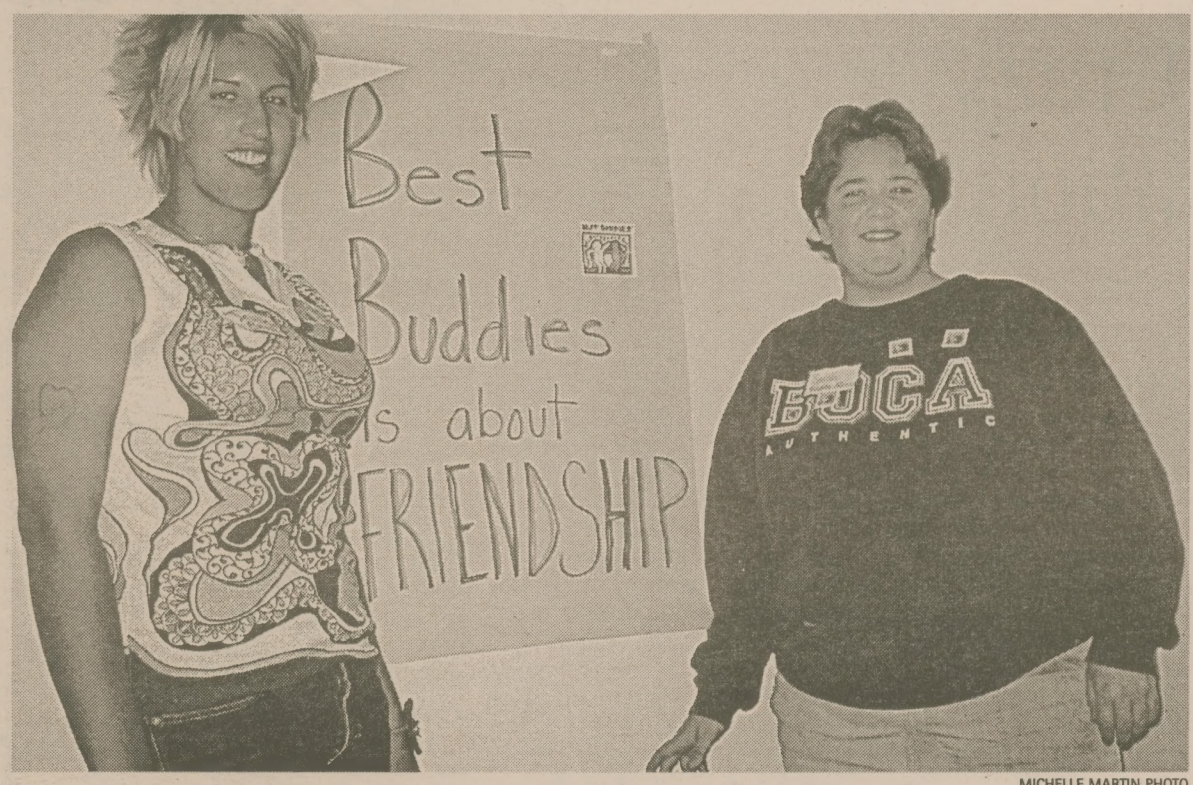
"They have the most genuine smiles I've ever seen," said Jesika Breitenfeld, the campus volunteer coordinator of UVic's Best Buddies program. "I love knowing that I've made even a little difference in someone's life."

Breitenfeld joined the UVic chapter of Best Buddies International (BBI) when she noticed the booth at Club and Course Union Days last year. She was matched with her buddy, Mona, because they both love ice cream, the TV show Friends and sports.

Throughout the year Breitenfeld and Mona went on various outings in the community, attended a Vikes basketball game and took midnight swims at the Oak Bay Recreation Centre.

"There's not a lot of opportunity to become comfortable around people with disabilities," said Breitenfeld, who explained that the program is a great way for adults, aged between 30 and 50, to integrate with a larger community.

Breitenfeld's mindset was on par with the organization's founder, Anthony K. Shriver, a student at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., who first established BBI in 1987 after he recognized the need while volunteering with the Special Olympics.



MICHELLE MARTIN PHOTO

Jesika Breitenfeld (left) and Sarah Morrison, Best Buddies advocate on campus, introduce UVic students to adults with disabilities. Breitenfeld met one of her closest friends thanks to Morrison.

Two years later, BBI was incorporated as a non-profit organization in the U.S. and the first Canadian chapter was formed in 1993. Today BBI coordinates over 50,000 volunteers at more than 1,000 universities, colleges, high schools and middle schools in Cuba, Egypt, Ireland, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sweden and other countries.

Sarah Morrison, the advocate for BBI at UVic, heard about the program last year through Citizen Advocacy, a non-profit society in Oak Bay designed to promote community involvement and personal choice for people with developmental disabilities.

"I wanted to have fun and have a best friend," Morrison said.

In September she was matched with her student buddy. "I got more out of it than I thought. My biggest disappointed was when my buddy had to move back to Edmonton."

Despite the distance barrier, the pair maintained a lasting friendship.

"She still sends me gifts, e-mails every second day and calls every week," Morrison said with a huge grin.

Breitenfeld knows that student commitment to the club is essential. "You never want to let [adults with disabilities] down because they've been let down so much," she said.

Students are asked to see their buddy twice a month and to call at least once a week. In return, students can expect the same treatment, said Breitenfeld. "It's a mutual friendship."

This year, many students have applied to be part of this program. Before joining the organization, volunteers must undergo an interview, a criminal record check and submit two personal references. Besides the handicap of environmental factors like poor accessibility, many adults with disabilities face prejudice and discrimination. For that reason, BBI is careful who is welcomed into the program.

Breitenfeld said the UVic chapter is always looking for "associate buddies" to tag along on outings like bowling, swimming and pizza parties.

Contact iamabuddy@hotmail.com if you're looking to make a new friend to gush over, as Breitenfeld did about her buddy Mona: "I've got a best friend for life."

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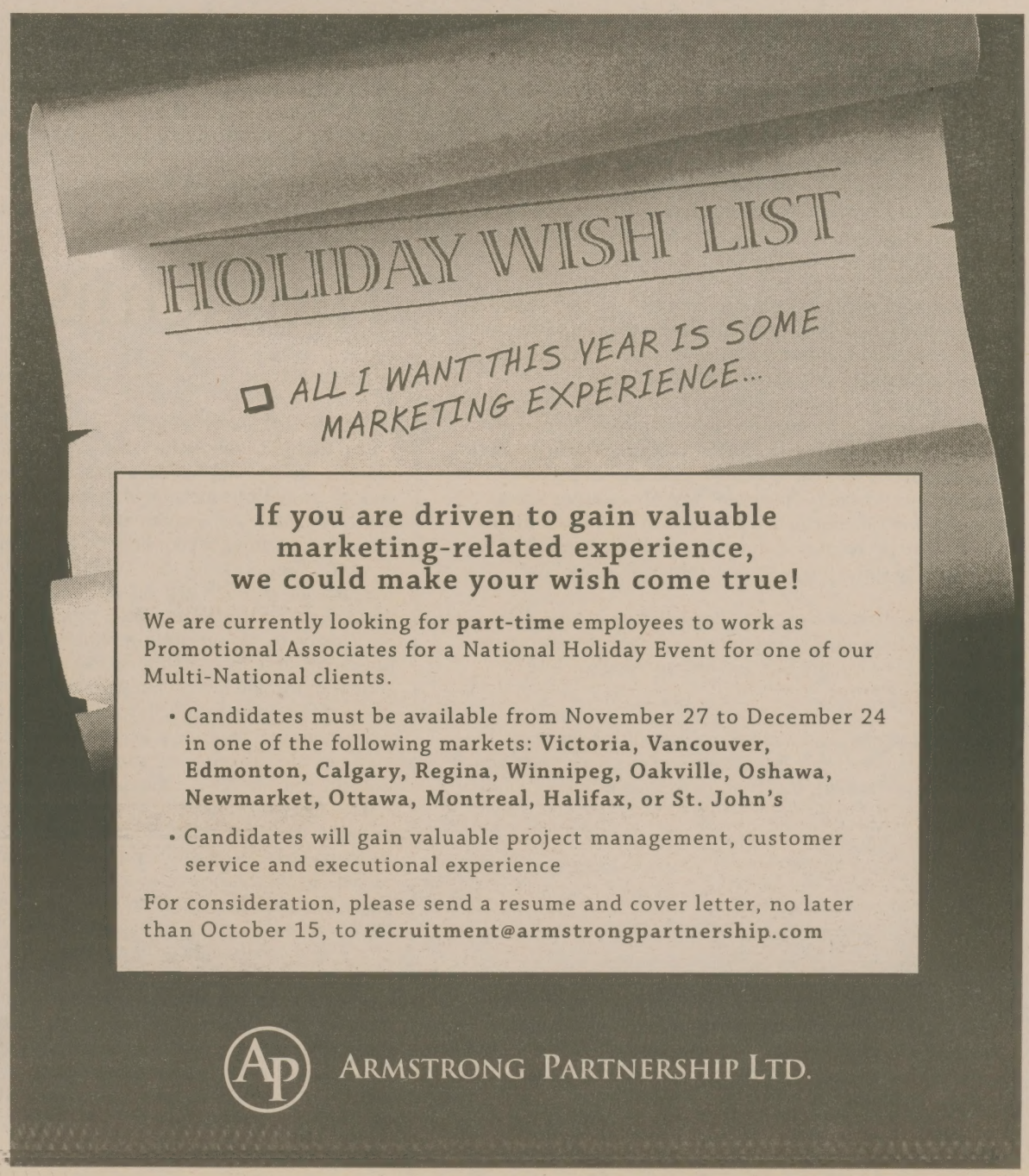

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Editorial

Crazy about lava

The media is going mad over a little molten rock

Get ready Victoria: it's time to go crazy over volcanoes!

That's right: lava, magma, plate tectonics—all the coolest volcano-related buzz words are out in full force this week as our side of North America braces itself for the eruption of Mount St. Helens.

Wait, you're saying—an editorial on volcanoes? Isn't there anything more interesting/relevant/pressing in the news? Well, we certainly didn't want to write an editorial about the Bush/Kerry debates or the opening of the B.C. legislature. Why be boring when we could vent about a volcano? Oh, and molten magma too!

After all, everyone's doing it.

The mainstream media must be tired of scaremongering about terrorism, since it hopped on the check-out-this-wicked-volcano bandwagon as soon as it could—don't you miss the good ol' days of dirty bombs and anthrax-filled letters? We sure do.

Of course, in all cases it's the initial press that is the most dramatic. Later on, papers and television news try to get facts and go from there. But the early reports usually tap into the fire-and-brimstone, prepare-for-imminent-death centre of our brains.

It's been 24 years since the volcano's top last blew, killing 57 people, and the media is just eating up the chance for more horror stories—the constant hurricanes must not have been enough.

A recent Associated Press (AP) story in the *New York Post* described the death, devastation, and destruction that can follow a massive eruption, complete with tales of rivers of lava that can incinerate whole villages. It even used the phrase, "like a boiling hurricane."

At the end of the article, the reporter checks in with a scientist, who explains they actually aren't expecting much in terms of destruction this time around. Good to know.

Though predicted to be relatively minor, the news media quickly dramatized the potential for an explosion. Yes: volcanoes are wicked-cool and the *Martlet* loves words like "magma" and "pyroclastic" as much as everyone else, but this is what volcanoes do: they rumble and occasionally erupt. Get over it.

Another AP story leaves the reader with "...leveled hundreds of square miles of forest and paralyzed towns and cities more than 250 miles to the east with volcanic ash." It's all about sensationalism and misrepresentation.

A nine-year-old boy who watched steam spew from the volcano told a reporter that it was "amazing," adding that he was "hoping to see lava so I could see the trees fall down and the lava flow into the water." Yes! That sounds like a blast, Jimmy. Of course, had an eruption happened, Jimmy would have been covered in volcanic ash, and probably breathing in some pretty terrible fumes. But hey, lava!

Should even a minor eruption happen, there's a good chance Victoria will be covered with a layer of volcanic ash. Enjoy it, kids—it's rare that you get anything so close to snow.

Editor's note: Should something catastrophic happen at Mount St. Helens while this issue is still on newsstands, we apologize for mocking the coverage of those who tried to warn us.

Editorial topics are decided at weekly editorial meetings and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of all staff members.
Don't like what you read? Write us, or write for us.
edit@martlet.ca

GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

"You're telling me we sent 70 people out on a three-day hike, with absolutely no training or equipment, 25 of them went missing, and WE DIDN'T FILM IT!?!"

LETTERS

UVSS fees undemocratic

I sit here distraught, pondering the fiscal irresponsibility of the University of Victoria Student's Society (UVSS). With the reality of rising tuition costs I question the logic of paying mandatory student union dues. The UVSS offers me absolutely no practical services in return for my hard-earned capital. Fiscal responsibility is obviously a foreign concept to the UVSS mandate.

Furthermore, autonomous thought is clearly not of value to the UVSS, in that each student is coerced into being part of a non-voluntary union. I am quite well acquainted with the services provided by the UVSS (day-timer, SUB mug, dental dam kit and extended healthcare, etc.) and I am certain I require none of these.

While it is indeed admirable to provide extended health care to the student body, it seems rather despotic to force students to go out of their way to opt out of coverage many already have.

A simple solution would be to have an opt-in program, thereby allowing students the freedom to allocate their monetary resources as they deem worthy.

If given students would prefer, they could use the significant amount of money allocated to extended health and the newly included dental plan to augment their course fees (or perhaps to purchase a framed picture of Karl Marx).

It is a common misconception that the union is a "democratic institution," though it is more appropriate to describe it as a dictatorial regime in which, on average, less than 15 per cent of the student body elects a board that has powers so profound they are able to affect 100 per cent of the student body along with their wealth and individual liberty.

This problem, while it may seem complex, has a rather simplistic solution. I would argue that a student's liberty should be respected to the point that the UVSS should be transformed from a mandatory union to a voluntary association in which students could choose which services they wished to subsidize (if any at all).

Michael Gismondi and Jonathan Hughes

The demise of male identity

by Sacha Narine

The infection is spreading.

You thought you were safe. You thought stodgy, old Victoria was far enough away from metropolitan hubs like New York, Los Angeles and even Toronto. You thought your little brother would keep wearing that WWF T-shirt straight through high school. You thought your friend Gary would never lift a razor to his off-putting puberty mustache. You thought the world of your youth would live on into the war-ravaged, dystopian future (in spite of all the warring and ravaging). You thought men would always be men. You thought you'd never see the day when you or Gary or your little brother referred to hairspray or gel or any other sticky chemical ooze as . . . "product."

I hate to be the bearer of extremely shitty news (on par with, "Your baby's been eaten by cuter, hungrier babies")—but you thought wrong. Metrosexuality has arrived in Victoria.

First acknowledged by writer and all-around witty bastard Mark Simpson, metrosexuality is the culmination of years of hard work by advertisers, filmmakers, musicians, fashion designers and other social puppeteers out to fossilize the notion of a heterosexual man.

If you've been living in an unfashionable cave for the last, say, 10 years, a metrosexual is a man (exclusively) who marvels every day at the depth of his own love—for himself. We're not talking about masturbation, but played-at queerness and real narcissism fused together to form a shiny, new alloy softer than Gary's old waterbed.

Think of a material formed from paper-thin sheets of gold and a gooey wad of melting gelatto. Now imagine that strange substance shaped into the form of a man, the gelatto sculpted into six-pack abs, the gold outer shell ruthlessly polished, insultingly smooth. On the gold-plated head, a stylish mane of raven-hued hair (shredded licorice), drenched in some toxic-scented cream or paste that promises "total control" and "firm hold."

The "metro" has a firm hold on a number of things: his man-purse (called a satchel), his mirror and his dick. He is amoral, a characteristic of all narcissists, and motivated to get out of bed in the morning by an unseemly desire for attention. Upon waking, the metro asks himself, "In what ways can I show my indistinct sexuality to the world? How many heterosexual men can I discomfort with my alluring androgyny? How many women will find my vanity an affront to their own?" Then the metro slips out of bed and into the bathroom for an exhausting ritual of self-scrutiny, ripped from the pages of Ellis's *American Psycho*.

I've seen the effects of this gelatto-flavoured poison, and my world is forever changed. I've watched a straight man tumble headlong into the gilded abyss. His doom was a single word—"product." I've felt the poison pumping in my veins, the deadly beauty of a black lotus corrupting my senses. I fear this pollutant, this despoiler of masculinity, is among us even now. Hairless chests, pearlescent smiles and exfoliating body wash. It is all that I have feared, all that I have guarded against. And I have failed.

I sit blindfolded at a smooth, stainless steel table in a dimly-lit room. In reach, laid out on a neatly-folded, sheer male blouse, are two tools of transformation: a 357-caliber Colt Magnum and a blow dryer. It's a binary decision—one or the other—and I've made my choice.

I'll take the Colt.

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The University of Victoria's Independent Newspaper

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Martlet is published every Thursday.

One night for women to walk alone

Should men be included?

by Kat Lee

I went to Take Back the Night not because I am a hardcore feminist activist but because my friend was going and asked if I wanted to come. It was an event for women to walk together in places where they might feel threatened, to take a stance that says we won't be cowed by the violence in the night.

When I got to St. Ann's Academy, the starting point for the walk, I was surprised by the number of women in attendance. Not that I thought there would be only a handful, but the turnout was much larger than I'd expected. What struck me was the number of young women, women my age. It made me wonder if they had had a negative experience or if they were just along for the ride like me. There were some men there too, and I was happy to see them supporting us.

When the speakers told their stories, they were stories of women dying on the streets alone with no one who cared for them. Stories of women who didn't even have enough money for bus fare to get to the walk. Stories of women who have been oppressed and assaulted. Stories that women go through every day that nobody except a few cares about.

The women walked, and out of respect to us, the men were asked to only stay for the discussion group—the point of Take Back the Night was for women to be able to walk by themselves without the help of men.

Halfway through Beacon Hill Park, I noticed a man in the crowd walking with two other ladies, surrounded by women. One of the volunteers approached him and politely told him that this was a walk for women, and if he'd like to support us, she was more than willing to accompany him back to St. Ann's. He declined. He said he understood it was a walk for women, but he didn't think we were going about this the right way. By not respecting his decision to walk, we weren't respecting him. He said this type of exclusionary attitude is exactly what perpetuates the very violence we are trying to stop.

The volunteer said they promised the women a walk for women only, and he was disrespecting the space created, a space where women could feel safe. He could support us by respecting the request. They conversed some more. Eventually, he left.

At first, I felt animosity towards this man walking among us. The one night for women to walk alone, together, to take back the night, and we still couldn't even take it back. After requesting to walk alone, it showed a breach of manners and lack of respect for what the walk was trying to accomplish.

But I had mixed feelings about the situation. If men do happen to support us and believe in a woman's right to safety, shouldn't they be able to walk with us? They could be husbands, brothers, boyfriends or fathers of women who have experienced assault. The men didn't want to be put into a marginalized role. They wanted to be included. It seems silly to hold people back if they want to participate.

My friend countered that if the man really wanted to walk to support us, he could have talked to the organizers and argued his case or become more involved in the planning beforehand, not oppose the request at the event.

Maybe the man was just arrogant and thought the gender exclusion ridiculous, so he walked to make a point. Maybe the man's wife or daughter had been assaulted, so he walked to support them. Maybe the man just believed in woman empowerment so much he wanted to do more than participate in a discussion group.

It was a judgment call made by people who have a strong stake in women's safety and putting women first. It is hard to blame them for being exclusionary when they are doing what they think is best for women. There were women there who'd had experiences with assault, who may have been uncomfortable with the presence of men. The discussion group was the first time men were allowed to participate in Take Back the Night, and anything's possible in the future.

Celebrity and the self-absorbed

by Bess Winter K.

"Excuse me! Excuse me, we have a burning question for you!"

My friend, let's call him Gunther, has cornered a waitress at Boston Pizza. Her arm swivels awkwardly into a hip-resting position.

"Yeah?" she responds, snapping the gum inside her mouth.

"Is not Brad Pitt," a theatrical pause from Gunther, "the sexiest man in the world?"

Her face scrunches. She scans our booth, eyeing the five youths who gaze at her unrelentingly, analyzing her every twitch.

"Uhh . . ." She begins. We lean in closer.

"Hmm . . ."

"It's a simple question," says Gunther. "Just answer yes or no."

She raises an eyebrow. "Naw, I don't think so. Doesn't do anything for me."

This does not deter Gunther. He still believes that Brad Pitt is, indeed, the sexiest man in the world. Since the day school started, he has been prattling on to us about Brad: about how he wants to be Brad's young, tethered love slave and how Brad's bronzed derrière is featured five times in *Troy*. Brad, Brad, Brad—it's all we hear. Gunther has made a deal with his girlfriend wherein he is allowed to have one hot, steamy love affair with Brad Pitt as long as she can have one with Angelina Jolie.

Gunther's obsession with Brad has piqued my interest in stars and why we love them. Every straight person seems to have a longing for at least one celebrity of the same sex that goes beyond simply admiring him or her. Why is that? Why do we suppress these longings for real life people but express them openly when we see popular icons on-screen?

I went around gathering information from my straight friends, asking which members of the same sex they lust for and why? Their answers led me to a rather embarrassing conclusion—the root of our same-sex crushes is unchecked, unabashed, total and complete narcissism.

Example one: Jim. Young, blonde, wispy-haired. Tall and thin. Listens to strange, ambient music. Reads fantasy novels. Thinks Orlando Bloom (particularly in the role of Legolas) is delicious.

"He's dreamy," says Jim. "He knows everything and he's never afraid in battle when everyone else is peeing their pants. Check out my poster here. Look at the way he's concentrating on shooting that arrow. Wow."

Example two: Annie. Outgoing, punky, loud and in-your-face. Bleached blonde hair. Wears a nose ring. Harbours a secret adoration for Christina Aguilera.

"Look at this poster where she's only wearing a guitar," says Annie. "You can't deny that she's hot. Christina is sex on legs. I love how skanky she is. She also gets into chick fights. Wow."

Example three: Edwina. Brilliant, dignified redhead. Diplobrat. Spent most of her childhood in England. Loves Cate Blanchett.

"She's so elegant. So refined," says Edwina. "I only hang fine art, but if I had to have a poster it would definitely be of her. Wow."

Example four: Yours truly. Minuscule, shy, short brown hair, loves oddities, taken to alone time and playing tricks on people. Head over heels in love with Amélie. Sometimes when I'm sitting at the computer here trying to think of something to write, I lean back and stare at my *Amélie* poster.

"Look at that little impish smile and those big, doe eyes," I think. "She's so cunning. I want to hug her. Wow."

And let's not forget about Gunther. His inflammatory nature and cynical sense of humour are like something straight out of the mind of Brad Pitt's character Tyler Durden from *Fight Club*.

We are attracted to stars who remind us of ourselves. It's pathetic, but true. We might as well be standing in front of a mirror blowing kisses. The entire human race should be required to wear those ridiculous über-trendy T-shirts that read "I HEART ME".

I am predicting that human cloning will one day be a lucrative business. Just wait 20 years. You'll see.

Tenants lose rent protection rights

'Every human being has the right to fight injustice'

by Doreen Marion Gee

It's bad enough when a government doesn't support anti-poverty initiatives. But when a government enacts legislation that actually causes homelessness and destitution, the public should never tolerate it. This is exactly what the B.C. Liberals did when they took away rent protection from tenants in B.C.

The most unjust and cold-blooded legislation that the Liberals have ever passed is their new set of rules around rent increases contained in Bill 70, the revamped Residential Tenancy Act of January 2004. Essentially, the Liberals have abolished the rent protection system in B.C. This one measure alone will cause an explosion of homelessness in B.C. and hardship on an unprecedented scale.

Under the new act, rent increases are determined by regulation that enables landlords to raise rents as much as 4.6 per cent this year. And these regulations can be changed without debate in the legislature, so in the coming years tenants could see even higher rent increases.

The Liberals have also taken away a tenant's right to dispute a rent increase through arbitration. The old system allowed a tenant to legally challenge a rent increase that they thought was unfair. Whatever amount the landlord raised the rent, a tenant could dispute it if the landlord had not kept the suite in good condition and a rent increase was not justified. This kept landlords accountable for the maintenance of their suites and kept tenants from being forced out of their homes by unscrupulous landlords.

The system protected tenants from unreasonable rent increases and it worked well for all parties—out of over 22,000 arbitration applications in 2002, only 868 were to dispute rent increases. But under the new system, a tenant cannot dispute a rent increase even when it is purposely intended to evict them.

What this all amounts to is that now landlords who rent decrepit accommodations can keep on asking for more money and not have to clean up their suites. What this means for renters is that many good tenants on lower incomes who cannot afford the increases will be forced out of their homes to choose between a slew of increasingly run-down apartments or living on the street.

Every human being has the right to fight injustice—nobody should have the right to take that away from them. Tenants have lost their right to go to arbitration to dispute a rent increase, but landlords have gained the right to take a tenant to arbitration to ask for even more than 4.6 per cent.

The Liberals need to address the harsh reality of today's world where homelessness and poverty are a national epidemic.

SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND? SHOUT IT OUT TO ALL OF CAMPUS. WRITE OPINIONS.
edit@martlet.ca | sub b011

BY RIGHT OF BIRTH

by Martin Lukacs

TEL AVIV, Israel (CUP) – The McGill Daily (McGill University)

"Welcome home."

It's odd to hear these words as you enter a country you have never set foot in. These were the words I heard as I passed through customs at Ben-Gurion Airport and found my hand clasped in a warm, strong handshake by Schlomo (Momo) Lifshitz, a paunchy, muscular former army colonel and current director of Oranim Birthright.

"As you are a Jew, this is your rightful homeland," he finished saying to me in a thick, Israeli accent before moving on to greet another person with similar words. He would reappear over the next 10 days, completing his message: I could, if I wanted, claim my Israeli citizenship at any point. I would be issued a passport, given an envelope full of cash, and the keys to a subsidized flat. Most importantly, I was here, in his words, "not to support us, but to be supported."

I had arrived in Israel for Birthright, a joint venture of the Israeli government, North American Jewish organizations and a dozen Jewish philanthropists. It was created to forge connections with the Diaspora Jewish community by strengthening, in their eyes, the image of Israel. Since its inception, it has brought 70,000 Jewish North Americans between the ages of 18 and 26 who have never been to Israel on an all-expenses-paid 10-day discovery tour.

I chose to go on the trip because I wanted to join the thousands passionately seeking a just and peaceful resolution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Because I had no previous emotional or religious connection to Israel, I genuinely felt that I might be able to uncover the humanity behind the narratives of both peoples. On my return, I hoped to speak of the realities excluded by those narratives.

BIRTHRIGHT

The 10 days were a whirlwind. We saw beautiful religious relics, walked through ancient cities and enjoyed the Israeli nightlife. Criss-crossing the country, we watched from bus windows as the surrounding geography transformed into a world populated by biblical heroes and modern warriors. We visited Kibbutzim, climbed Masada at dawn, saw beautiful Haifa and modern Tel Aviv. We were made privy to that unique achievement of the Jewish people, an active remembrance of history.

For many, the most exciting part was meeting and bonding with the eight Israeli soldiers who joined us for five days. In Israel, soldiers are held up like gods in what amounts to a civil religion. Customs, stories and legends combine to create a "battle mythos," sustaining their image across the world. Throughout the trip, we were regaled with stories of their miraculous triumphs.

Birthright came to a close with many taking the opportunity to extend their flight date. Most went to party in Tel Aviv or in the resort city of Eilat. Some went to work on a Kibbutz. A few went to join programs where they could serve in the army for a few weeks. Most, however, went home in a daze, convinced that Israel was well and good.

The majority of those on the trip—unlike me—had been raised religiously, or, at the very least, had not been estranged from secular Jewish life. They were reared on stories of the ancient glories of the Jewish people in the Holy Land. They were infused with a sense of their 2,000-year exile, of religious persecution, inquisitions, blood libels, pogroms and a near total annihilation during the Holocaust. For them, Birthright was a powerful, emotional affirmation of everything they already believed. The majority left celebrating a version of Israel—a mythology, really — they had known all their lives.

SINS OF OMISSION

I was moved to tears during Shabbat services one serene Friday night. It happened in front of the Western Wall, the last remnant of the Second Temple. For the first time in my life, I understood the beauty of a dream for a nation that in its nobility would give dignity to the suffering and death of millions.

Birthright and its narrative embody this dream. In so doing, however, it perpetuates a hypocrisy seething under our understanding of the Israel-Palestine conflict. Israel is not just a nation of victims but also a nation that also victimizes. Birthright does a disservice by refusing to acknowledge that Palestinians and Israelis are fully implicated in each other's lives. Their past, present and future are intertwined. Their shared nightmarish course can only be altered if they awake together.

In its 10-day program, Birthright does not acknowledge this fact. We learned nothing about the growing Refusenik movement, made up of soldiers refusing to serve in the West Bank or Gaza Strip. And we were not informed about how, after their mandatory two to three years of service are finished, many former soldiers travel the world to cleanse their memory of their military years. We were not told that Israel, funded by the U.S., with an armed force unlike any in the Middle East, has not felt militarily threatened in decades.

During the trip we heard nothing of Palestinians, save for a power point presentation actually entitled The Middle East in 30 Minutes, during which an "expert" reduced the problems of the region to the fact that a tiny nation of helpless Jews is perpetually set upon by sanguinary, irrational Arabs.

I sank into despair when I realized the entire Palestinian-Israeli conflict seems to be marred by this failure to reckon with the presence and needs of another people—with its land, its history of suffering, and emotional and political investments in that land. We were never provoked to chant, "Kill the Arabs." Nor were we told in so many words, "Hate them." Yet, for 10 days, I was taught a subtle discounting, a not-seeing of the other people.

When we feel threatened, we define our enemies as less than fully human. It is only

Two boys stare down at scattered debris.

TRAVELLING TO ISRAEL AND PALESTINE IN SEARCH OF ANSWERS

when we shed the rationalizations and justifications that deny us the capacity to see the other as fully human can we meet them as partners.

I believe it is vital for anyone who cares to see an end to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict—Jew and non-Jew alike—to acknowledge the Birthright experience, to engage themselves with the modes of perceiving, knowing and feeling into which I was initiated, and finally to grasp how, if one remains mired in these worldviews, all that will ever be possible is continual stagnation or mutual annihilation.

Boy gazes at Israeli soldiers.
DANIELLE FRANK PHOTOS

THE STORY OF SADAAM

In Palestine, I discovered the side of Israel that I was not shown or told about during Birthright. Working with the International Solidarity Movement (ISM) and Ta'ayush—two groups who support Palestinians in non-violent direct action—I expected to meet one child after another whose only ambition in life was to become a suicide bomber.

Instead, I befriended children who were, despite suffering so much so early in life, the same as children everywhere. I met future soccer players, engineers and politicians. I met only one young boy who wanted to become a suicide bomber.

I took an instant liking to 13-year-old Sadaam. When ISM passed through his village, his family took me in for the night. I had not seen him at that day's protest, where all the young boys had been throwing stones at the soldiers. I asked him why, and he shyly confided that he was too scared. I enjoyed his sensitivity and mature disposition. He had an endearingly serious way of speaking English. Often he would search for minutes in his Arabic-English dictionary for the exact word he wanted.

I asked him about his plans for the future, and at first he told me he would like to sell fruits and vegetables in the market. But that night as we both tried unsuccessfully to fall asleep, I caught him reading a small piece of paper. On it was written: "We do not sing the praises of death but the hymns of life." I made him promise to tell me what it meant in the morning, despite the fact that I had already surmised its nature.

Near dawn, we both gave up trying to fall asleep and joined his uncle for a glass of hot, sugary tea. At my request, Sadaam and I walked behind his house, past a braying donkey tied to a fig tree and down into a valley. Not more than 500 metres away was the so-called Security Fence, which I wanted to take pictures of. His father had told me the night before that since the barrier was built, he had lost the job he had held for 25 years in Israel, and the olive groves that had been passed through generations of his family had been confiscated and the trees uprooted. Now, he was finding it hard to feed his family.

I asked Sadaam what he thought the barrier would do to Palestinians. In a voice wise beyond his years he replied, "We know how it is in Gaza." Carefully, I began questioning him about the Hamas pamphlet that I had caught him reading. Finally, he confided that he dreamed about becoming a suicide bomber. I told him I was Jewish. He thought for a little and then shrugged. He pointed at the barrier and said he was angry with the people who had built it.

I have no doubt that Sadaam will be able fulfill his dreams. I can see him exploding his frail body among Israelis, fulfilling the dictates of a twisted Hamas creed. I can see him imagining himself rousing the consciousness of Israel and the world about the utter injustice of his situation. Sadaam is the terrorist I was taught to fear and hate during Birthright—their "mindless agent of hatred." In fact, he is a mere boy whose life is so painful that it does not seem to him to be worth living. His desire to be a suicide bomber is not borne of an intractable hatred but in direct response to an occupation that does not give him a chance to live.

UNPACKING ANTI-SEMITISM

The morning after an open discussion with some men about Jewish opposition to the occupation, a relative of one of the men brought her sobbing child to meet me. The boy's father was in jail. Being extremely scared of the Israeli soldiers as a result, the mother had thought contact with a "good" Jew might alleviate his fright.

There are many other similar incidents that bring to light the shaky claims made by apologists for Israeli aggression: Palestinians are intractable enemies of the Jews; Palestinians refuse to live with or by the side of Israelis; Palestinians raise their children to feel likewise.

I don't relate these stories to whitewash the anti-Semitism that does exist. Rather, I want to show that if we speak of a hatred of Jews, we should not speak about the fanatic, irrational hatred to which Jews are so well accustomed—a hatred of Jews as Jews. The anti-Semitism that exists in Palestine is motivated by a hatred of occupiers and colonizers who happen to be Jewish.

WORDS FOR TWO PEOPLES?

"Where should we go after the last frontiers?/ Where should the birds fly after the last sky?/ Where should the plants sleep after the last breath of air?/ We will write our names with scarlet steam./ We will cut off the hand of the song to be finished by our flesh./ We will die here, here in the last passage./ Here and here our blood will plant its olive tree."

What person could not empathize with the lines of Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish that express the reality of a people driven into perpetual exile, who carry in their hearts an agonizing longing for a homeland, a dream as worthy as any other of a birthright? But according to Ehud Barak, former prime minister of Israel, his country "is not yet ready" for this poetry.

Before I said goodbye to Sadaam, I told him about a prayer Jews fervently recite at the end of Passover, the holiday commemorating the liberation of Jews from Egypt in which they faithfully pledge to meet "next year, in Jerusalem." Although I have never seriously made this prayer, I promised Sadaam I would in the upcoming year. My prayer, however, will be slightly different. It embodies the hope of two peoples, not just one, a hope of two homelands existing peacefully without concrete walls between them. It is, I admit, a prayer founded on infinite optimism, which can only be sustained by a refusal to give in to despair. Even so, I will say it with faith: Next year, in Palestine, side by side.

Palestinians wait to have their papers examined at an Israeli checkpoint.

Billy goes pop!

Billy + the Lost Boys
Breaking Down the Barriers That Break Down Your Music
Boompa Records

by Tristan Hutton

When I hear the phrase "pop-punk," I am almost instantly greeted by MuchMusic-induced post-traumatic stress disorder. Images of black eye shadow, jet-black dyed hair and lip rings burrow into my head like some kind of insidious psycho-virus that furthers my residence-induced insomnia. The source of this disorder seems to be the continued barrage of pop-punk on the airwaves. Of course, I would be completely wrong to characterize all pop-punk as the Sum 41, Simple Plan or Good Charlotte variety. There are bands that do pop-punk right. Now the question is: are Billy and the Lost Boys the latter, or simply another one of the MTV kids, all canned sensibility and bad guitar?

Billy and company make a bold statement right off the bat by titling their album *Breaking Down the Barriers That Break Down Your Music*. They don't live up to the name, but what they do is make a decent pop-punk album without resorting to bouncing pop beats or lyrics about the mean girls in high school.

Billy's voice has a classic, whiny, punk drawl, kind of like a female version of Adam Lazzara (from Taking Back Sunday). And a female vocalist is always refreshing in a pop-punk band. The songs are mostly up-tempo, and although Billy abandons her guitar for a few piano-inspired ballads, these tracks do little to define the album. After the final listed track, the album tacks on three extra bonus songs that are good enough tunes but seem more of an afterthought than part of the whole package.

As the CD spins in my player, making its 10th or 11th rotation through the 15 tracks, I realize the album has not further irritated my pop-punk psychosis. No, it hasn't caused any flashbacks, night sweats or splitting, 360-degree head rotations. But just as importantly, it also isn't the antidote I need.

Art school, art cool

by Andrea Dupuis

"Being done university sucks. This whole working thing?" laments 27-year-old Chuck Andrews, a graduate of the UVic visual arts program who now works as a full-time cook.

Andrews's first solo art show, "Art's Chool," runs from Oct. 1 to 9 at the Fifty/Fifty Arts Collective. The show's title is a play on the words "school" and "cool," because Andrews created most of the artwork while attending UVic.

"I made the name really hokey," says Andrews. "One of the guys at work said, 'That's so dumb, it's brilliant.'"

Andrews, who also hosted the Area Of Refuge punk-rock show at CFUV for two-and-a-half years, says he hopes to someday do something more related to his art for a career.

"The sky is the limit. I could be anything from a DJ, to booking bands, to owning a club, to working in an art gallery."

He has worked full-time since graduating in 2003, because he says it's near impossible for an artist to live off his artwork.

"I want to create artwork, but I work 40 hours a week. That leaves very little time to career search and little to create art."

Andrews hopes the show at the Fifty/Fifty will help get some of his work out there.

"The show has motivated me to get more in the arts world," he says, adding that being an artist is all about self-promotion and giving it your all.

"Approaching businesses to put up your artwork seems to be key. Knowing people is also handy."

Most of Andrews' work is based on pop culture images painted on bright or fluorescent backgrounds. He likes to play around with the pop-and-shock of it and refers to his work as "shock art". He uses images like hotdogs, hamburgers, handguns, the Vanilla Coke label and the McDonald's arches as the subjects of his paintings.

Andrews says the struggle for graduates of arts programs is where to begin, "then really taking the big step of busting out of [their] world and really searching for a career."

Although he plans to work in an arts-related job, for now Andrews is happy just making art. All of the works hanging on the walls of the gallery have modest hand-drawn price tags ranging from $5 to $100. Some pieces have "Not For Sale" tags because Andrews gave them to a friend.

He may not make money from his artwork, but at least he is getting it out there.

"Art is a reflection of our world and pop culture just gets huger and huger," says Andrews. "There should continue to be a market that in turn reflects it."

Support your local artists. Check out Art's Chool, which runs from Oct. 1 to 9, 1 to 5 p.m. daily at the Fifty/Fifty at 2516 Douglas Street.

NIC HUME PHOTO

UVic graduate Chuck Andrews stands proudly before his new show Arts Chool.

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Saved! saves the day

by Taisha Garby

On the surface, *Saved!* appears to be a typical teen movie. There's romance, there's drama and there's fun—but it goes deeper. The film conveys the message that we should accept everyone's differences, that we shouldn't judge or try to categorize people but just let them be who they are. That sounds corny but it really is the underlying theme, and this movie makes it work.

Saved! has many normal youths with common problems. When you set these problems at a Christian high school, however, they stand out. The movie shows how Christianity, which claims to be understanding and accepting, can be very harsh to those who don't fit the norm.

Hilary Faye (Mandy Moore) is a devout Christian who wants to "save" others by making them accept Jesus into their hearts. Her best friend Mary (Jena Malone) isn't sure that's a good idea. Mary tries hard to be a good Christian but finds herself questioning whether what she has always believed is right. Macaulay Culkin plays Hilary Faye's disabled brother, Eva Amurri plays the rebel who Hilary Faye wants to "save" the most, and Patrick Fugit also stars. This movie is hilarious—a great rental. It shows the hypocritical nature of religion and displays many flaws in the Christian faith.

The DVD extras, however, aren't up to the same standard. There are only four blooper scenes, which aren't that funny. The deleted scenes are so-so, and the commentaries by the director, co-writers, and producer are just boring technical jargon. The theatrical trailer was unnecessary, and the DVD wouldn't let me go to the *Saved!* Revelations, outtakes from the film. But the extras redeemed themselves with Jena Malone and Mandy Moore's commentary, which was quite entertaining. They talked about all the funny things that happened to them while on set and filming.

Saved! is a light, funny and touching movie that everyone should see. It has enough depth for multiple viewings and, with a PG-13 rating, it's appropriate for most ages.

Tears, fears and lots of flaming cheese

by Sacha Narine

PROVIDED PHOTO

Big, red, fire truck—cool. Weird guy on the right—not as cool.

Every time I go to Subway, the highly trained sandwich artist behind the counter asks me, "What type of cheese would you like?" I never remember what kinds they have, so I always ask for mozzarella, and I'm always informed that they only offer cheddar, white cheddar and Monterey jack. I pick a cheese at random, since they're all bound to taste the same inside a huge sandwich.

You can go ahead and think of the film *Ladder 49* as a huge sandwich, stuffed with piles of pungent, oozing cheese, begging you to eat it up. Inside the huge sandwich, the cheese is pretty good. In the extra-sweet, hot fudge sundae that is a film like Pearl Harbour, the cheese isn't so good. You know why? Because cheese and fudge don't mix. Not in my mouth, anyway.

Ladder 49, the story of a rookie fireman named Jack Morrison, is an emotionally draining film that's one step short of melodrama, but too real for that to matter. Its dialogue is too honest. Its depiction of firefighting as an awkward, tiring ordeal is too direct. Although the film is strung together by emotional manipulation, it is hard to condemn a piece of work that sets out to show the honour and bravery of real-world self-sacrifice. If you want to see cheese done wrong, re-watch *Titanic* or the first Spider-Man movie. *Ladder 49*, for all its brutal, tear-jerking moments, succeeds in glorifying the life of a firefighter beyond all reason—just enough to roil the stagnant emotions of a jaded moviegoer.

It has some weaknesses: an improbable accident, one moment of unintentional humour and some downright irritating music. The biggest flaw, albeit a subjective observation, is its disregard for the mundane and the offensive. The film blinks past those realities to focus squarely on heroism, courage, joy and pain. There are no f-words, no sex scenes, no racism—no superfluous truths. We see only what serves the film's purpose. But that's just good filmmaking.

Pay attention to the conversations between Mike, played by John Travolta, and Jack, played by Joaquin Phoenix. Watch Travolta do every damn thing he can to prove he's got range as an actor, to prove that he can feel and think and do all the right things on screen. Watch the carefully crafted, sweet interactions between Jack and Linda, a girl who sells jewellery and is careful to point out "it's just a job." Jack says the same thing about working on Ladder 49. And when you watch the firefighting scenes, admire their pace, an exhausting, chaotic crawl through smoke and flame.

Ladder 49 requires some emotional grounding. Viewers who are easily upset or discomforted by fictional joy and sadness might opt to stay home and watch American Idol or listen to Smash Mouth. Be prepared to feel something, and let yourself enjoy the cheese—because, in a movie like this, it tastes pretty good.

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Moneen bounces into town

by Sean Patrick Sullivan

An interview with Kenny Bridges can be just as dizzying, spontaneous and unpredictable as his band's live performance.

One moment the Moneen singer/guitarist is quietly explaining his approach to songwriting, and the next he yells into the phone, "Holy shit! There's a guy walking his dog with the fucking craziest beard I've ever seen! You've gotta see this!"

A string or two of profanities later and Bridges is back on track. He's excited about the band's new material, but discouraged because touring has left them little time to work on new songs.

"I like to write songs to a point but then want to get everyone in on it," he says. "I'm not a simple singer/songwriter kind of guy—I can't write little, simple guitar stuff and put some vocals over it. Maybe if we did that more people would get our band on first listen, but that's not what we're about."

The Brampton, Ont., band is touring Western Canada with pop-punk favourites Alexisonfire, and anyone who sees their show will have a hard time leaving without some merch in tow.

Moneen's songs are complicated and stunningly original—aggressive, melodic, hardcore pop might be the closest that adjectives can come to describing the stop/start, quiet/loud nature of the music. Abandoning the typical verse-chorus song structure, Moneen's music weaves through successive outbursts of noise blended with surprisingly pretty melodies.

The band puts on the best live show of any Canadian group, with members literally bouncing off the walls as the crowd sings along. (Moneen fans always seem to know all of the lyrics.) Bridges and co-guitarist "Hippie Chris" trade vocals and complement each other's guitars while drummer Peter Krpan and bassist Erik Hughes build a wall of percussive noise behind them.

The shows can be violent affairs for the band members, particularly Bridges, who has an affinity for crowd-surfing with his guitar and jumping and climbing around on-stage gear like Spider-Man.

Despite the number of times he smacks himself with his own guitar, Bridges says most of his injuries come from off-stage.

KYLE CUNJAK PHOTO

Moneen's "tour of fun" makes its way to Victoria on Oct. 9. Prepare for hyperactivity.

The current tour with Alexisonfire has been the "tour of fun," he explains. "We and Alexis get along very well . . . We have a very easy time seducing them into doing very stupid things."

Before playing a show in Edmonton, the bands hit up the waterslides at the West Edmonton Mall, and Bridges and the band's guitar tech managed to knock themselves out while being a little overzealous on the slides. A few days ago, Bridges did a front-flip over a reporter who was interviewing him. The result? A "busted-up knee."

This is what his day-to-day life is like—on stage, it's just as crazy. Experience Moneen on Saturday, Oct. 9 at Sugar Nightclub.

The Planet Smashers are back in full force

by Jodi Magliaro

After three weeks and 20 shows on the Van's Warped Tour, The Planet Smashers are back with a new album and two new members in tow and are making their way to the West Coast.

The Montreal band will be promoting their latest album *Mighty*, a more positive and fun album than their previous release *No Self Control*, which was criticized by some for being too dark and negative.

According to guitarist Matt Collyer, it was not a conscious decision to steer *Mighty* away from dark themes.

"It just depends on what mood we're in at the very time we hit record. The way it goes on tape is the way we're feeling that day. If we're in a fun, festive kind of mood, thinking about summer in the middle of winter, you get *Mighty*," he says.

Mighty was produced by Rod Shearer of Bran Van 3000 and Corey Hart fame and was mixed on the same board as Madonna's *Like a Virgin*.

The Planet Smashers have also released their first DVD, *wTen*, containing a collection of videos, live tracks and an animated movie. Providing they were in a positive mood the day they compiled the contents of the DVD, it is sure to provide some insight into the band's 10 years of success.

Matt Collyer and Dave Cooper are the only two members left from three years ago when *No Self Control* was released.

The Planet Smashers that released the classic *Attack of the Planet Smashers* are arguably not the same as the band you'll see Oct. 13.

But Collyer believes the new members will have no problem fitting in.

"We have enough records that we're happy with now that we can pick from a lot of material—we're not going to be forcing them to play some bad old tunes or anything," he explained.

"Neil [Johnson] and Andrew [Lattoni] just jumped right into it right away."

The Planet Smashers have been at the top of the ska scene in Canada for almost as long as they've been together. With a new album seemingly revitalizing their hold, they definitely put on a worthy performance.

Planet Smashers play Oct. 13 at Legends. Advance tickets are available for $15 at Lyles Place, Ditch, the Strathcona Hotel and TicketWeb.com

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Duel of the mod-rockers

Interpol
Antics
Matador Records

Blood Meridian
We Almost Made It Home
Teenage USA Recordings

by Megan Drysdale

Interpol and Blood Meridian managed to release albums that sound exactly like winter semester albums should. On different ends of the spectrum, one album is full of the naïveté of making a fling last this time around, and the other is tailor-made for the darkest October days when that summer love won't return your phone calls.

Interpol isn't the discouraging one this time around. Instead, the band surrenders doom and gloom to Blood Meridian's music-to-drink-to debut. Here's a summary of Interpol's how-I-spent-my-summer-vacation essay: Went to the beach, fell in love, made an album to carry us through winter.

Not nearly as dark as their debut *Turn on the Bright Lights*, each song is wistful, earnest and perfect for those who just don't know if they can make the long distance thing work. And, dare I say, the group has tapped into its pop sensibilities, especially evident on "C'mere" or the '50s-ballad-tinged "Next Exit." Die-hard fans may be unsure about the new direction. Joy Division's switch to New Order might be the closest comparison or The Cure's transition from "Killing an Arab" to the poppy '80s "Friday I'm In Love." This is still Interpol—just Interpol realizing life may not be as dark as they thought it was.

Those who want the bitter without the sweet are directed to Blood Meridian's *We Almost Made It Home*. Beautiful? Yes. A reaffirmation of life? No—a big, resounding no.

The opening track off the Vancouver rock-folk sextet's first album should say it all. "I Wonder What the Windshield Tastes Like" is about life on the road taking its toll on a person, emotionally and physically.

Like only the purest rock-folk can, in the vein of Neil Young and Johnny Cash, Blood Meridian uses narrative. They tell of selling souls to the devil for the greater good and couples who just don't make it through the rough spots.

BERKLEY BRADY PHOTO

Lorna Crozier flashes a bright smile and for good reason—her department is loaded with talent.

Fresh and familiar join forces

UVic faculty writers flex their literary muscles

by Megan Stewart

The department of writing's annual faculty reading brought life to the written page of Canadian literature.

The familiar faces of Lorna Crozier, Lynne van Luven and Lorna Jackson appeared at the podium to read new work in familiar tones, drawing a range of emotions from the 150-person audience. These full-time staff have taught at UVic for more than a combined 30 years, and fiction writer Bill Gaston, who missed the reading, adds another six years' experience.

On display for the first time as UVic faculty were four newly hired, full-time professors: screenwriter Maureen Bradley, poet Tim Lilburn, journalist and creative nonfiction writer David Leach and dramatist Joan MacLeod.

"There is a zing in the air right now in the department, thanks to these four new people," said Crozier, the department's chair.

Crozier expressed pride that the writing department is not merely an extension of the school's English program. "It's a pleasure to be recognized by the university for being able to contribute in our own right."

With a dozen books of poetry to her name, a Governor General's Award, the Canadian Author's Association Award and two nods for best female poet in Canada, Crozier alone can assert that she contributes to the strength of the department. But in her opinion, it's the students who have the final word when it comes to classroom, lecture hall or workshop expertise.

Before each professor read, MC Stephen Price, a poetry teacher and graduate from the writing program, quoted the praise, admiration and awe of past students.

For her "fierce and brilliant mind," van Luven was lauded for remaining "sarcastic, funny and wise." Jackson's energy, according to past students, is " big-hearted like a country song." And Crozier was compared to the poetry she writes, "humorous, restless and driven towards what really matters."

The four fresh faces had much to live up to.

Bradley shook up genre stereotypes and played "Stranded," a film short inspired by Sin City. The one-time bass player has screened projects throughout the world, including the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

For his poetry books, Lilburn was shortlisted for the Governor General's Award in 1989 and nabbed it in 2003. He read from his book Through the River.

Leach, an experienced travel and adventure writer, read a published piece on mountain biking through the Peruvian Andes with a dated highway map and flawed guides.

Joan McLeod's contribution left no doubt as to the overall skill of the new acquisitions. Performing in character as teenaged "Glenda," McLeod read the monologue that inspired her stage play, *Amigo's Blue Guitar,* currently showing at the Phoenix Theatre.

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Adieu à nos amours

A eulogy for the Montreal Expos

GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

by Gavin Day

On Sept. 29, the final home game of Major League Baseball's Montreal Expos came and went—35 years of baseball history will now fade into memory. A team that was once the toast of the city, and in fact all of Canada, will next year be playing south of the border in Washington, D.C., a city that has already had two teams move out.

Many people argue that Montreal no longer deserves a team because the fans simply don't support baseball any more. But people in that city have gone through so much heartbreak and deception that it would be difficult to support a team when you don't know if they will be playing next season. Being unable to find local ownership for a team with dwindling attendance, Major League Baseball has decided to move them.

For the past three seasons, the team has been owned by the 29 other owners of Major League Baseball. The current state of affairs reeks of politics directly from the office of the commissioner of baseball, Bud Selig.

In April 1970, Alan "Bud" Selig purchased the bankrupt Seattle Pilots and moved them to Milwaukee to play in County Stadium. Not only did they have dreadful teams every year, they didn't sell many tickets.

When he became commissioner in 1998, Selig had to give up his majority share to his daughter. Like most other teams, Milwaukee soon got a brand new stadium, Miller Park, in 2002. When clubs get new stadiums, attendance always seems to explode. The problem with Milwaukee was that they still had dreadful teams, and attendance remained low. In a city that has never supported baseball, why do they keep getting chances like this?

During the 1980s, the place to be on a warm summer night in Montreal was at the Olympic Stadium, or the "big O." Every night, 35,000 fans would file in to watch fabulous players like Tim Wallach, Tim Raines, Andres Galarraga and Andre Dawson. The closest the Expos came to the World Series was in 1981 when they lost in the National League Championship Series to the Los Angeles Dodgers. But once the 1990s hit, the fairy tale in Montreal came to an end.

In 1991, founder and owner Charles Bronfman was afraid of skyrocketing player salaries and decided to sell the team before incurring any huge financial losses. The team was then purchased by a consortium headed up by Claude Brochu. In 1994, the Expos were seemingly on their way to their first World Series appearance. They had the best record in baseball and a solid team. Pitchers included Pedro Martinez, Ken Hill, Jeff Fassero and John Wetteland. Positioned players included Marquis Grissom, Wil Cordero, Moises Alou and Larry Walker. They also had, in my mind, one of the best managers in baseball, Felipe Alou, a former player.

Unfortunately for them, 1994 marked the end of a collective bargaining agreement, and much like in hockey right now, the players went on strike. Support from a majority of the owners was needed to lock the players out, and one of the men who supported the lock-out was Brochu.

This strike forced the cancellation of the playoffs and the World Series. Once settled, the general manager at the time, Kevin Malone, was given 48 hours to dismantle the team that had come so close to a title. After the "fire sale," the Expos were only left with prospects and a handful of the players from the '94 club. This trend would continue—bringing up promising young players and then trading them off for cash and younger players.

Brochu finally sold his majority share of the Expos in 2000 to New York art dealer Jeffrey Loria, who many believed would be the Expos' saviour. He started work on plans for a new downtown stadium and added to the payroll. Everything seemed to be going well. There was one problem: his son-in-law, David Samson, had not negotiated TV or radio deals with any English or French language broadcasters. This was a major concern since television and radio revenues are much higher than from stadium attendance.

Excuses were given, fingers were pointed, but not much work was done. Eventually, Loria sold the Expos to the the 29 other owners of Major League Baseball and bought the Florida Marlins, which leads us to where we are today.

The payroll of the first-place Expos in 1994 was $10 million. This year's Expos' payroll is almost quadruple that at $38 million, and they're going to finish in last place. For several years now, the Expos have been at the receiving end of many a joke, but for a team that sees surviving until the next year as a huge accomplishment, they've performed more than admirably, with more spirit than any other team in baseball.

Growing up in Ottawa, I once dreamt of playing shortstop for the Expos, a dream which was shared by several of my friends. I took many trips to the "big O" to watch "nos amours." In fact, I watched Donovan Bailey lead Canada to the Gold medal in the 4x100-metre relay in track and field at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics on the big screen at the stadium. They may not realize it now, but Montreal will miss their Expos.

To quote the play-by-play voice of the Montreal Expos from their start in 1969 until 2001, Dave Van Horn: "It's up, up and away! A home run!!"

Adieu à nos Expos.

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PETE LEWIS PHOTO

Vikes amazing offence a no-show on Sunday.

Tough tie for Vikes women

Now on road to gain much needed points

by David Karp

This past Sunday's 1-1 tie between UVic Vikes women's soccer team and the Calgary Dinos pitted the best offence in the West against the best defence in the West.

Going into the match, the Vikes led the West in goals, averaging over four goals a game. Calgary, meanwhile, has allowed only three goals all season.

Early on, the game was dominated by tight defence on both sides, with neither team taking many risks. Calgary's best chance of the half came in the 26th minute when a Dino corner was tipped over everyone's heads by Vikes goalkeeper Jill Carruthers.

The Vikes best chance of the first half came in the 34th minute. Calgary keeper Charlotte Sullivan was caught off her line, but managed to make it back in time to save a shot from about 20 yards out.

A scary moment occurred less than 10 minutes into the game when Calgary player Megan Gould went down after going up for a ball with a Vikes player. She stayed down for almost two minutes before being helped off the field. She did not return to the game.

The game stayed fairly even in the second half. But Calgary looked a little sluggish, as they were playing their third game in four days.

Liz Hansen joined the Vikes at halftime, offering a fresh set of legs. In the 67th minute, she blasted a goal into the top corner from inside the penalty area to put the Vikes up 1-0.

Carruthers came to the rescue of her teammates with fantastic diving saves on two separate occasions. She pushed the ball just wide enough to prevent a goal each time.

However, it was Calgary who got the last laugh. Joanna Ng scored on a well-placed strike from about 35 yards out to tie the game in the 83rd minute. This goal seemed to give Calgary the second wind that they needed, and for the final few minutes neither team really dominated.

"Would you be happy with a draw?" asked Vikes head coach Tracy David. "We just dropped two points today. We have to win at home. [Calgary was] tired, but they didn't show it. We were rested. We needed a better team performance today than we showed. Now we have to go on the road to Lethbridge and Calgary and get points there."

"[Our performance] got better in the second half, but we couldn't really string anything together. Calgary's a tough team," added Vikes midfielder Kim Harper

With the tie, the Vikes slip into second place in the West behind UBC.

THE UNUSUAL SIDE OF SPORTS

An intro to Extreme Bocce

by Ian Meredith

MIKE BERRY PHOTO

Extreme Bocci championship circa 2003.

A hazy cloak drapes the surface of Maple Lake near Parry Sound, Ont. The serenity is muffled only by the laboured stumbling of a dizzy prince across broken boards that front a house of ill-repute. Soon others follow. We wander wearily through the acreage, entertaining ourselves easily with almost any object found, as nonsensical rambling spews from our fuzzy-toothed beer filters.

The haze begins to lift and inevitable chores, led by the housemaster Pops, lead to the discovery of large round projectiles. Bocce balls. As sure as the sun will rise, a sport will be born.

Unaware of conventional regulations and techniques, "Extreme Bocce" tested our human limits, both physical and mental.

On a rolling hill off the water, leading down to a sunken stream and sandy playground/barbeque pit, the first game took shape.

For downward slopes, high throws with back spin ended up being the toss of choice. Rolling techniques were avoided, realizing the inertia produced by a round object of such weight would surely drag the brightly coloured balls into the gully and eventually to the bottom of the hill, well past the jack (or object ball).

Setting blocks in front of the jack becomes inconsequential since the high trajectory teamed with deadly accuracy would induce a drop 'n' stop effect. Hitting an opponent's ball from such heights could result in clearing their ball(s) from the target zone. However, there's also potential for clearing all of your own balls. Both of these scenarios could result in a possible "Bocce," achieved when all balls from one team are closest to the jack at the end of a round. A risky venture to say the least.

As the game moved through different terrain, grass became longer, rocks and trees were introduced and "the junk," or soft, muddy ground, became an issue. As a result, the "bump and roll," along with bank shots, became the order of the day.

With non-forgiving surfaces such as granite also integrated into the game, we became painfully aware that "play 'er as she lies" would tear at the very threads that held our beloved game together. To contradict Mother Nature would be blasphemous in this tight circle of innovators and ambassadors. In turn, many a ball was lost. With a little duct or shin-pad tape and some elbow grease, "tapy" became a common piece in Extreme Bocc (pronounced "botch").

As people were invited to join the ranks of the elite, new ideas came and went, tactics once thought devious were proven weak and new alliances were formed. For the most part, these teams have held strong. However, with constant travelling and schedule contradictions, often backup teams were created.

There is always a close battle with each team having its strengths and weaknesses. But, very few teams have been able to hold a candle to the dynasty created by Jamie and Ian, the three-year champs. They currently bear the belts handcrafted each year on the May 24 weekend.

Getting mentally prepared for the 2005 season is a constant challenge. Always waiting in the shadows are Ken and Paul or Ken and Cory with their "four balls touching" motto (each team has four balls to throw, but I don't think that's what the saying refers to!) and trash-talking antics. Sadly to no avail, as they still wait to don the prized belts.

So, whether in your yard with official balls or on the beach using rocks in an impromptu match (Rock Bocc will be discussed in future articles), I urge all of you to play one of the greatest games around—Extreme Bocc. Play 'er as she lies, fellas . . . play 'er as she lies!

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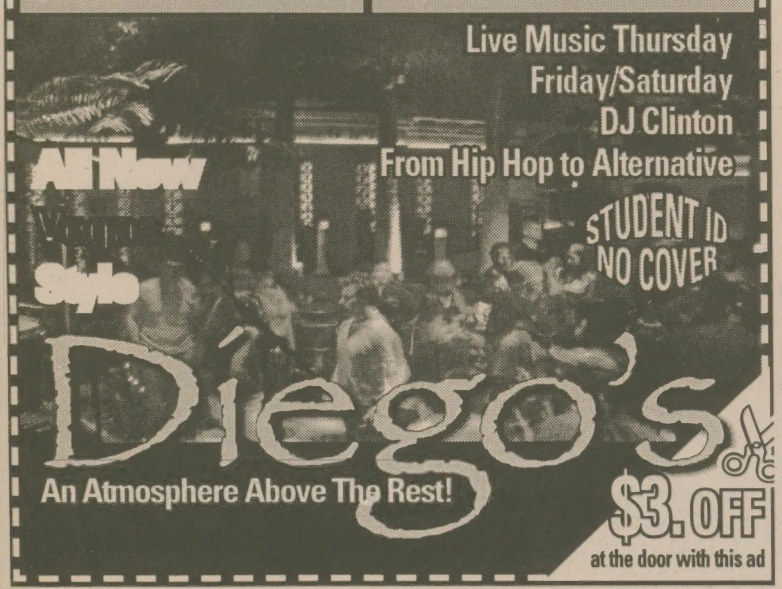

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Turnover proves fatal for Vikes

by Tim Curll

LARISSA MATWIJA PHOTO

Men's rugby lose in the final minutes on Saturday.

Though ahead going into the final minutes of the men's rugby game, a Vikes turnover in the last 60 seconds allowed the Pacific Pride to rally one last march into UVic's end. Final score: 29-27 Pride.

The Vikes fought a gruelling battle against their local rivals on Saturday, dominating early but struggling to hold a narrowing lead. The Pride fought back with steady plays and a good eye for opportunities to squeak past the Vikes in the final minutes. The first half of the game was all about the Vikes. UVic's forwards pack-ploughed the Pride into the field, while their backs kept the Pride offence working hard for their points.

Steve Batie made scoring look easy with a dash through the Pride defense to open up the scoreboard early in the game. A follow-up try by Mike Danskin and great kicking by Dave Spicer gave the Vikes a 17-10 lead going into the second half.

If the first half of Saturday's game highlighted the Vikes speed and well-balanced style of play, the second half showed where the squad needed improvement.

The Pride offence kept up steady pressure and quickly took advantage of some unforced errors and gaps in the Vikes patterns. It became apparent that the Vikes were increasingly running out of steam after their blitzkrieg-like start.

The lead narrowed and back-to-back tries by the Pride put them firmly back in contention. Things seemed to be going badly for the Vikes.

The Vikes refused to go down easy though. They held a narrow lead that looked like it was going to be enough as the clock ticked down to its final minutes.

They took control and moved the ball steadily downfield. A penalty kick by Spicer opened the lead back up to 27-22. The Vike's second win of the season seemed imminent, but it was not to be.

A faulty play put the Pride back in possession with a minute left on the clock. The switchover seemed too much for the Vikes to handle so late in the game, as the Pride fought their way downfield against a now-exhausted Vikes defense.

With seconds left on the clock, they scored the final try of the game. An easy conversion followed and the Pride walked away with a hard-won victory.

According to UVic coach Doug Tate, the forward pack is strong, the defense well-balanced, and the entire team is fast and hungry for victory.

He said the team consistently has strong openings in their matches, but unfortunately this doesn't always make for strong ends.

The loss on Saturday puts the Vikes at 12 for the season, but by no stretch of the imagination does it reflect their play. The game against Pride showed the Vikes are tough competitors, and the fans got a hell of a show, complete with down-to-the-last-second climax.

Coach Tate set the bar at making it into the top three of the league this year, which will allow the Vikes to move on to the premier league.

UVic men shutout Dinos

1–0 score keeps UVic in top standing

by Emilee Gaebler

Last Saturday the Vikes men's soccer team proved why it is considered one of the best teams in the league, keeping the University of Calgary Dinos scoreless with a 1-0 win.

At 18 minutes in, the Vikes' Will Moore scored the first goal on a penalty kick. UVic was awarded the penalty after forward Sean Battistoni was hauled down in front of Calgary's keeper. This goal proved to be the only one of the half, as the Vikes were able to keep the Dinos scoreless.

In the second half, despite a few opportunities presented to them, the Vikes were unable to score again. But Vikes keeper Trevor Stiles had his work cut out for him. The Dinos came back in the second half and upped their offensive pressure. Making a few impressive saves, Stiles was able to hold back the Dinos and maintain the win for UVic.

Head coach Bruce Wilson was satisfied with yet another victory for the Vikes; however, he felt that his team could have played better.

"There were a lot of missed opportunities for us where we could have scored and just didn't act upon it," he said. "The finish just wasn't well for us."

Despite these missed chances, Wilson still felt that his team was much more dominant in the game than the Dinos. He said he was very impressed with Vikes player Chris Craveiro.

"Chris was able to set up at least four opportunities for us in the second half," he said. "Unfortunately we didn't take those and make them into goals."

The Vikes are now looking ahead to next Saturday's game versus Trinity Western University (TWU). Both teams are currently very high in the standings: the Vikes with 13 points this season and a 4-1-1 record, with the TWU Spartans only one point behind them.

This will be one of the biggest games of the season for the Vikes as the Spartans are one of the top teams. They pose a threat not only this Saturday but also in the Canada West play-offs later this season.

But Coach Wilson believes that his team will be able to hold their own.

"We are the team to beat," he said. "We have quality players and one of the best goalkeepers in the league."

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The West Coast Women's Legal Education and Action fund, which works to challange gender inequality using Canada's Charter, holds its 10th annual Person's Day Breakfast on Thursday, Oct. 21 this year. This event celebrates the 75th anniversary of the recognition of women as legal persons by a groundbreaking Privy Council decision. The Breakfast takes place from 7:00 to 9:00 a.m. at the Princess May Restaurant. The keynote speaker is well-known *Sun* journalist Daphne Bramham, who will speak on the polygamist community of Bountiful, B.C. Tickets are $30. The venue is wheelchair accessible and there will be sign-language interpretation. For more information, please contact Ramona Reynolds at 383-2356 or Kim Hart Wensley at 721-8190.

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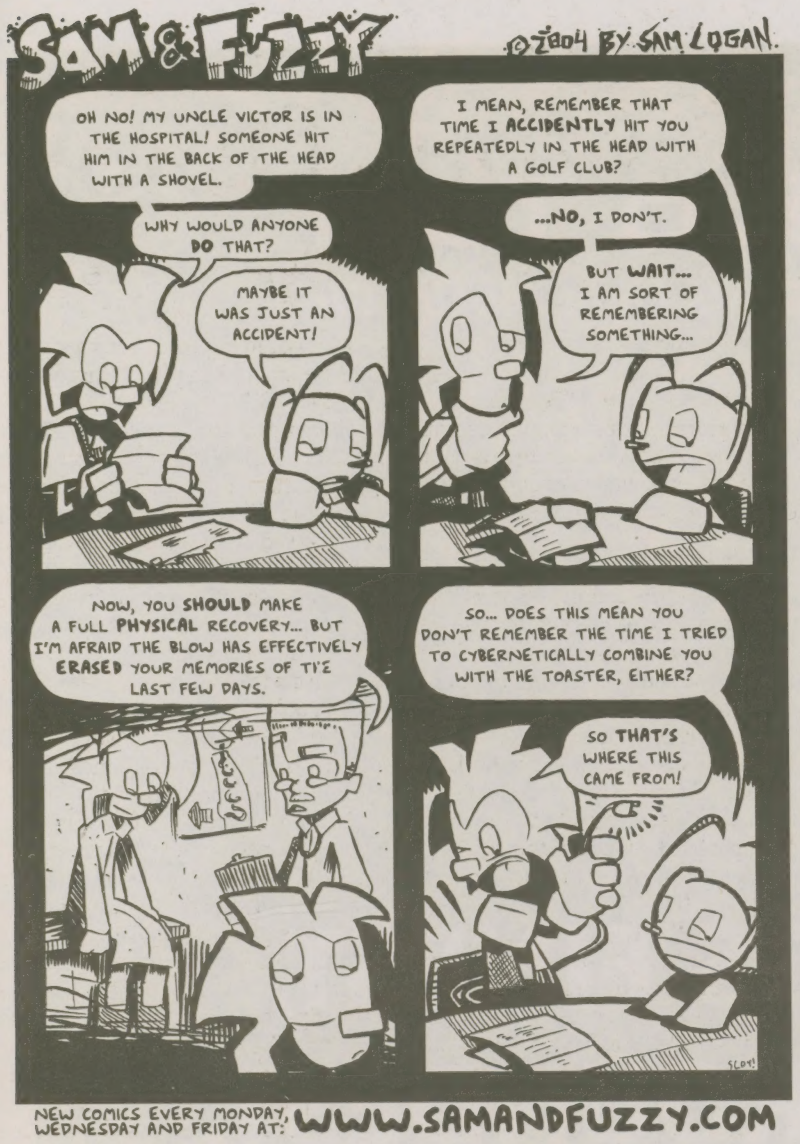
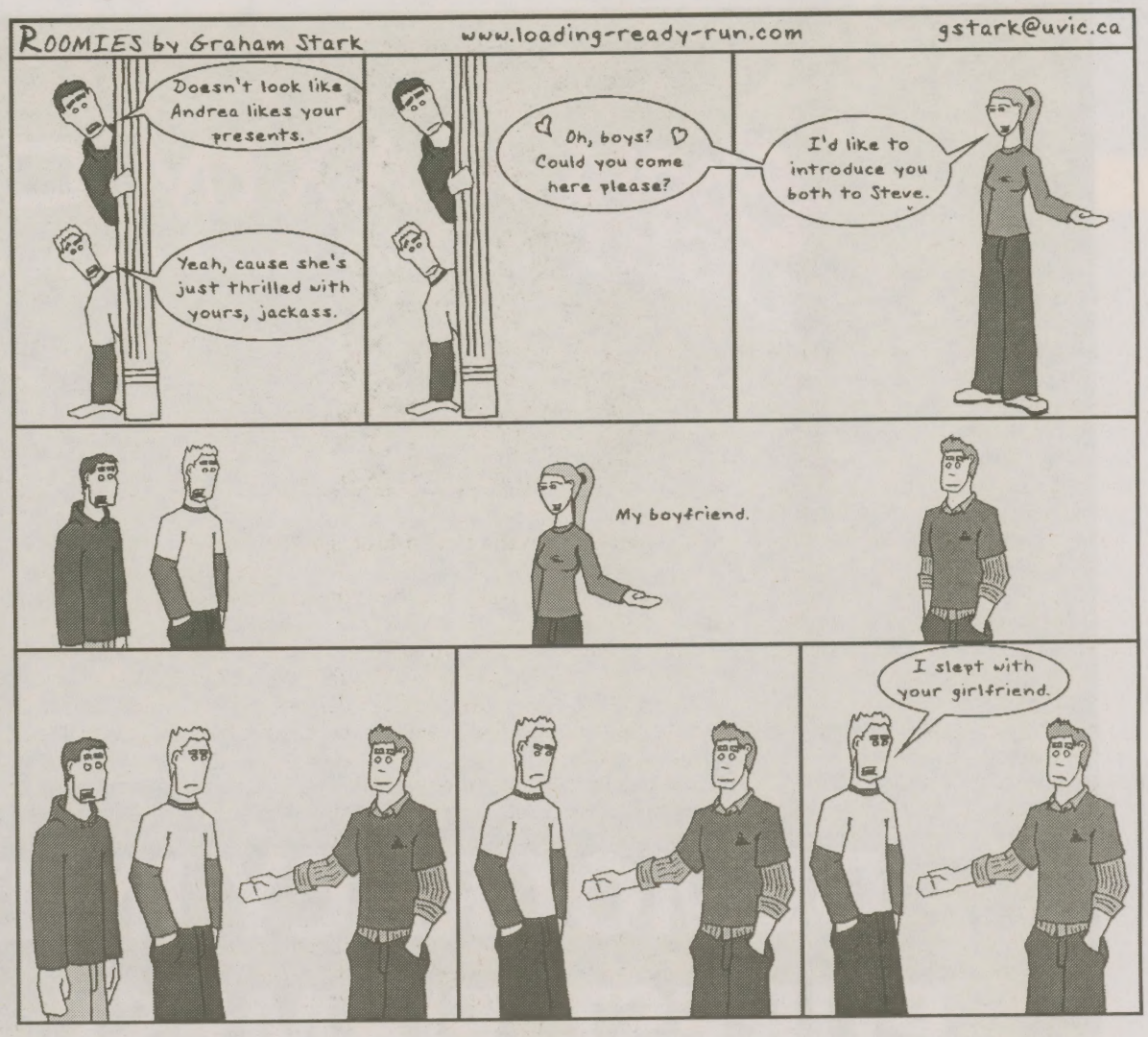
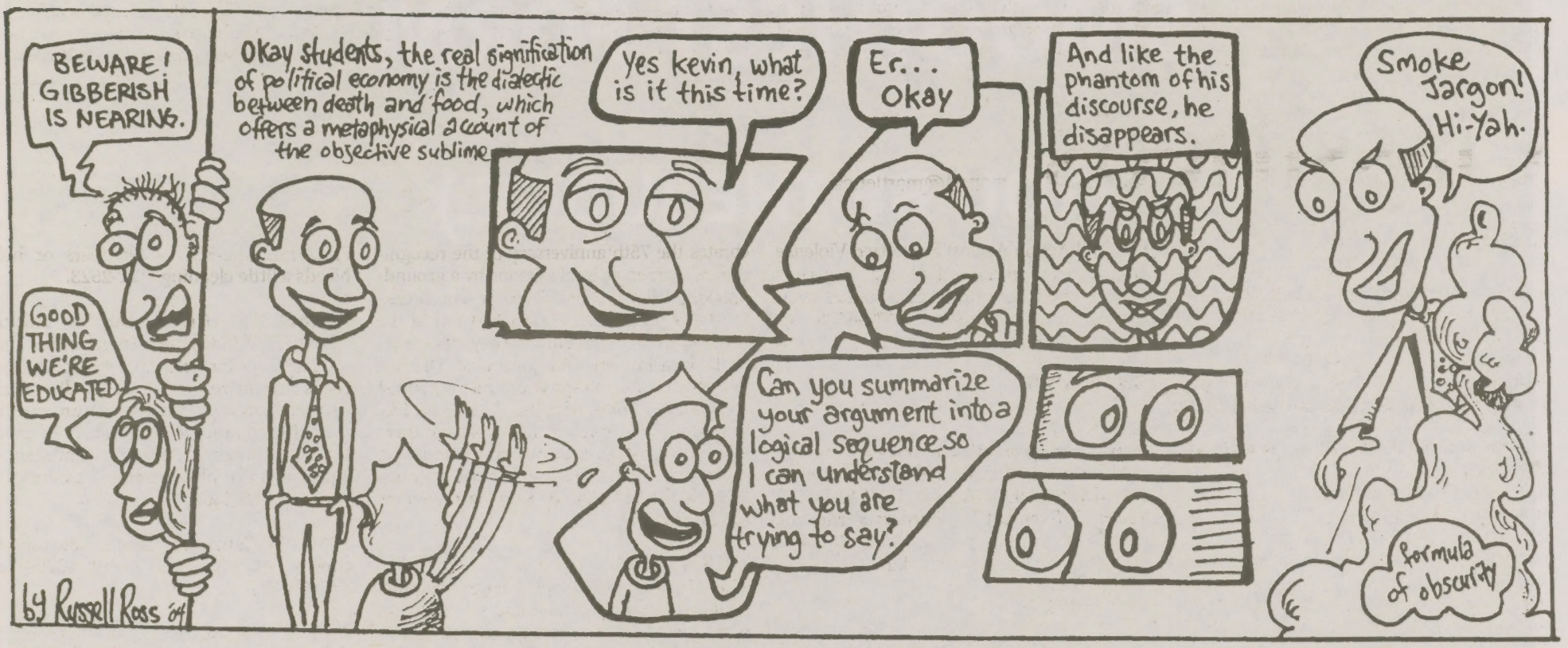
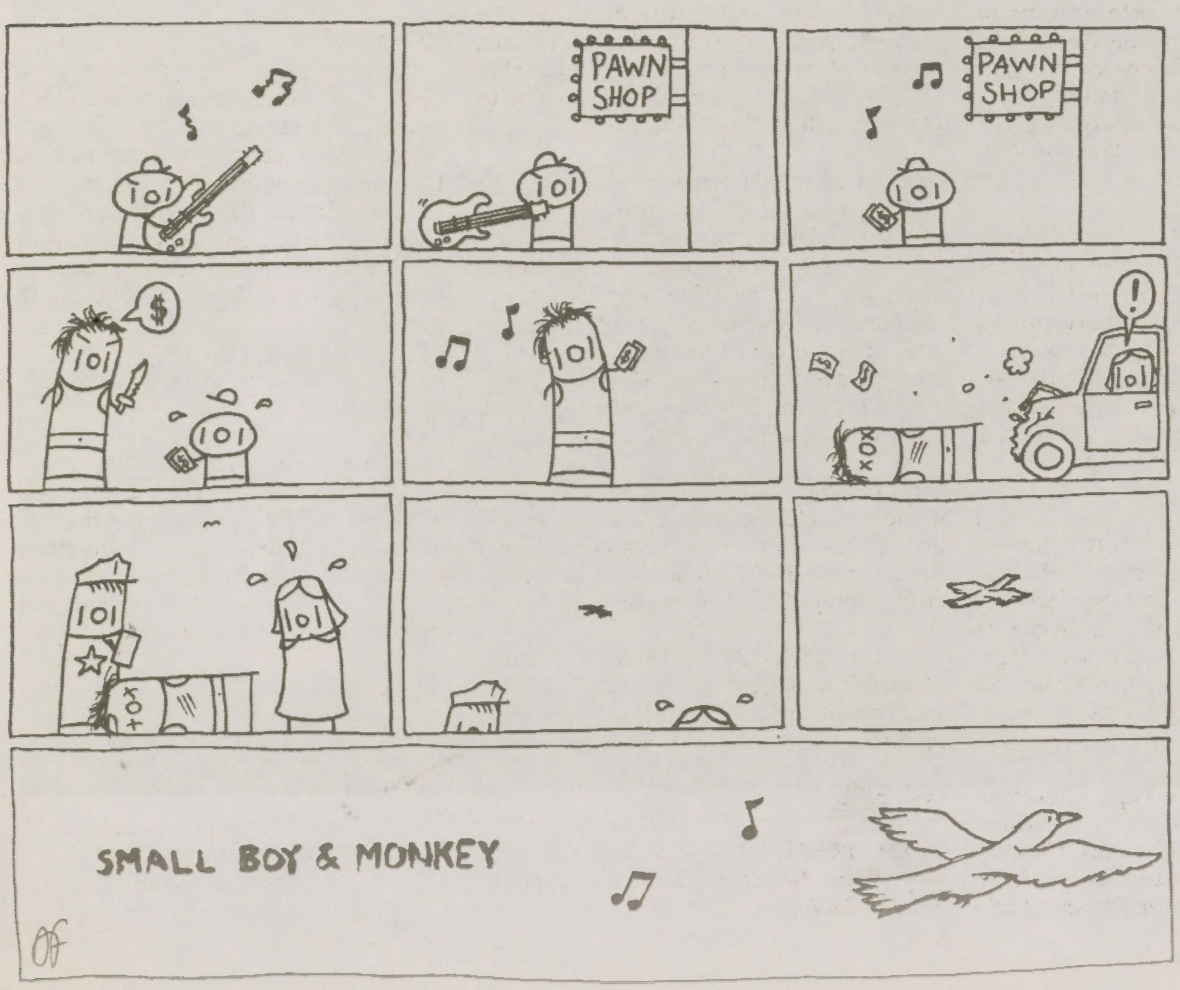

SAM & FUZZY
©2004 BY SAM LOGAN.
OH NO! MY UNCLE VICTOR IS IN THE HOSPITAL! SOMEONE HIT HIM IN THE BACK OF THE HEAD WITH A SHOVEL.
WHY WOULD ANYONE DO THAT?
MAYBE IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT!
I MEAN, REMEMBER THAT TIME I ACCIDENTLY HIT YOU REPEATEDLY IN THE HEAD WITH A GOLF CLUB?
...NO, I DON'T.
BUT WAIT... I AM SORT OF REMEMBERING SOMETHING...
NOW, YOU SHOULD MAKE A FULL PHYSICAL RECOVERY... BUT I'M AFRAID THE BLOW HAS EFFECTIVELY ERASED YOUR MEMORIES OF TI'E LAST FEW DAYS.
SO... DOES THIS MEAN YOU DON'T REMEMBER THE TIME I TRIED TO CYBERNETICALLY COMBINE YOU WITH THE TOASTER, EITHER?
SO THAT'S WHERE THIS CAME FROM!
SCOTT

NEW COMICS EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY AT: WWW.SAMANDFUZZY.COM


ROOMIES by Graham Stark
www.loading-ready-run.com
gstark@uvic.ca
Doesn't look like Andrea likes your presents.
Yeah, cause she's just thrilled with yours, jackass.
Oh, boys? Could you come here please?
I'd like to introduce you both to Steve.
My boyfriend.
I slept with your girlfriend.


BEWARE! GIBBERISH IS NEARING.
GOOD THING WE'RE EDUCATED
Okay students, the real signification of political economy is the dialectic between death and food, which offers a metaphysical account of the objective sublime.
Yes kevin, what is it this time?
Er... Okay
Can you summarize your argument into a logical sequence so I can understand what you are trying to say?
And like the phantom of his discourse, he disappears.
Smoke Jargon! Hi-Yah.
formula of obscurity
by Russell Ross '04



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Ottawa November 8 **Capital Music Hall**
Toronto November 10 **This is London**
London November 14 **Club Phoenix**
Hamilton November 17 **Fever Night Club**
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